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NEWS ANALYSIS
THE [illegible]KERS
How the lobbyists are moving in on Labour

SECTION TWO
INDECENT EXPOSURE?
Why one woman's snapshot is another man's pornography

Nation stares into its divided soul as killer 'rejoices' but government pledges that the Middle East peace process will continue

Rabin killing throws Israel into turmoil

PATRICK COCKBURN
Jerusalem

Israel buries Yitzhak Rabin today, briefly united by the shock of his death but horrified by the depth of the divisions within Israeli society revealed by his assassination.

As Mr Rabin's coffin lay outside the Israeli parliament yesterday, tens of thousands of Israelis filed past to pay their last respects. Utterly unrepentant, Yigal Amir, his 27-year-old assassin, said he had also intended to kill Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, who is now the acting prime minister. He said he "received instructions from God to kill Prime Minister Rabin."

Police believe the assassination was probably the work of Amir acting alone, but are unravelling his contacts among the extreme groups of the Israeli religious right. Moshe Shahal, the Police Minister, said the assassin made two previous attempts to get close enough to the Prime Minister to kill him before he finally succeeded at the end of the peace rally in Tel Aviv on Saturday night.

Quite apart from political shock-waves of Mr Rabin's death – throwing the future of the peace process into confusion – Israelis must now stare into a psychological and spiritual abyss that they had long preferred to ignore. Mr Rabin's death was the first ever murder of an Israeli leader by an Israeli. Whether or not Amir acted alone, Israel can no longer disregard the fact that it has an implacable, fundamentalist and anti-democratic force in its midst, which is not foreign, but home-grown.

President Bill Clinton and John Major will be join many other leaders at the state funeral today, including President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, making his first visit to Israel, King Hussein of Jordan, and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany. Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, has decided not to come on the grounds that his presence might be considered provocative.

Israelis are astonished that the assassin was able to get so close to Mr Rabin despite the presence of 700 security men. *There is sure* to be a *serious row* over the failure of security. The police say that Mr Rabin refused to wear a bullet proof vest which might have saved him.

The reasons for the failure of security appear to be that the security men were trained to expect and prevent attacks by Palestinians. Despite repeated threats against Mr Rabin and his ministers, they did not expect him to die at the hand of a Jew. Israeli security may also have been hampered by over-confidence in their own ability and efficiency which is often lauded by the Israeli press.

Mr Peres and his ministers were quick to assert that the death of Mr Rabin will make no difference to Israeli withdrawal from the towns of the West Bank and the next stage of Palestinian self-rule. Mr Peres could capitalise on the shock of Mr Rabin's death by holding a snap election to take advantage of the confusion in Likud, the main right wing party which is trying desperately to distance itself from its former friends on the religious and nationalist right. A quick election might, however, prove to be a dangerous tactic if the backlash against the right does not last. As a life-long hardliner, Mr Rabin had the credentials to push the peace process, which Mr Peres, long regarded as a moderate, arguably does not.

The 73-year-old *Mr Rabin* spent 27 years in the Israeli army and was chief-of-staff during Israel's biggest military victory in the Six Day war in 1967. His political career, which led to him becoming prime minister twice, was rooted in his status as Israel's leading military hero.

Many of those waiting to file past his coffin yesterday were religious Jews wearing skullcaps wanting to demonstrate their disapproval of the killing. "My reaction was total embarrassment because I am a religious Jew and I wear a *kippa* (skullcap) and now I know when I walk down the street people are going to look at me like I am a murderer," said Alon Cohen, originally from the United States.

Amir, 27, the assassin, was a law student at Bar-Ilan, a religious university outside Tel Aviv. The son of immigrants from Yemen he had been brought up attending religious schools and had been involved in agitation in favour of the West Bank settlers. He has made no attempt to deny the charge and signed a five-page confession. When told Mr Rabin had died, he said he was happy.

An astonishing aspect of the assassination is that it had been often predicted this year without anybody believing that it could really happen. Settlers near Hebron and other centres of extremism had made clear that they saw Mr Rabin's government as giving up the land which God had given to Israel. They had already proved their potential for violence when Baruch Goldstein killed 29 Palestinians as they worshipped in a mosque last year.

Amir told police interrogators that he believed that it was permissible "to kill anybody who was giving up the land of Israel".

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'Yitzhak Rabin has buried forever the possibility of an Israeli state maintained only by military might and sustained by a perversion of the Zionist ideal.'
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The Israeli dream that died with Rabin
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Family support: Leah Rabin, with her son Yuval, mourns beside her husband's coffin which lay in state yesterday outside the Knesset in Jerusalem. Tens of thousands of Israelis filed past to pay their last respects Photograph: Yannis Behrakis/Reuter

I just want to cry for my country. I fear for the very fabric of our society

DAVID HOROVITZ
Jerusalem

I was supposed to be interviewing Yitzhak Rabin this *morning. At 11.45. To discuss* Israel's relations with Diaspora Jewry – and specifically the storm he aroused in the United States a few weeks ago by telling American Jews to butt out of Israel's peace policies and confine themselves to sending money to finance Jewish immigration and absorption.

The row was typical of the man, sparked by his penchant for plain *talking*, his utter disinclination for hypocritical diplomatic niceties. And those of us who supported Rabin – probably a *slight majority of the* Israeli public – loved him for that bluntness, that addiction to telling it straight.

But we admired and respected him for much more than that. And today, as we bury our most courageous prime minister, we wonder where our country can go now without him. For Yitzhak Rabin represented the heart of Israel. In his personality and his career were contained both the very essence of our past and all our aspirations for a more normal future. And now, we shiver with uncertainty, numbed by the vacuum at our core.

For three-and-a-half years, after he narrowly won election in June 1991, we watched Rabin gradually come to acknowledge that he really had the chance to secure Israel's future by making peace with the Palestinians and the wider Arab world. When he hesitated, at the White House in September 1993, before accepting Yasser Arafat's outstretched hand, we understood that pause. We hesitated with him. He joked that he had butterflies in his stomach. We shared them. Was this a terrible mistake, trying to build a partnership with a man who for so long had been dedicated to our elimination?

The two years since have demonstrated that, no, this is not a mistake. Only Rabin, surely, could have navigated us along this route. Rabin read the *writing on the wall*, but refused to be cowed by it. Yes, he said, just days ago, he knew that the screams of "murderer" and "traitor" directed at him by right-wing demonstrators were creating a climate ripe for political assassination. But he insisted, as ever, on leading from the front, insisted that he felt secure in the midst of his people.

For all the pain and the grief, we would feel different if he had been gunned down by a Palestinian. That one of our own people should have done this, *should have calmly squeezed the* trigger, and now complacently eschews remorse ... I am still shaking as I write these lines. Everybody I know here has been crying. Most of us have been up all night, unable to tear ourselves away from the television screens and the radio. I moved here from England 12 years ago, and now I wonder if the country I came to is still here. I wonder how I can contemplate ever sending my two young sons to fight in the Israeli army for a people that could produce this murderer.

While the analysts speculate about the impact on the peace process and the likely domestic political fallout, I just want to cry for my country. Having lost Rabin, and lost him like this, I fear for the very fabric of our society. If he can be killed, then everything about Israel is vulnerable. All bets are off. Will we disintegrate into anarchy? Can our democracy survive? One thing is certain. We have proved to be our own worst enemies. For 48 years, we have resisted the hostility of our neighbours. Now we ourselves have stopped our own heart from beating.

David Horovitz is managing editor of the Jerusalem *Report news magazine.*

Unionists may vote with Labour on Nolan

DONALD MACINTYRE
Political Editor

Ministers and leading Tories *fighting against* having to reveal the outside income they earn as MPs were faced with a potential setback last night when *David Trimble*, leader of the Ulster Unionists, said he was in favour of disclosure.

With a dozen or more Tory *MPs considering* the possibility of supporting disclosure or abstaining in tonight's knife-edge Commons vote on the *Nolan recommendations*. Mr Trimble's remarks were the first indication that Unionists could support Labour's bid to force through *disclosure*.

In an interview with GMTV, the Ulster Unionist leader was asked if he would "back John Major" by supporting the majority report of the special Select Committee which came down against disclosure and instead supported a ban on "advocacy" by MPs in the Commons in support of their outside commercial interests.

Mr Trimble replied: "I think that's the wrong way to look at it. It's not a question of hacking someone ... This is a matter for the House of Commons. It's a free vote. John Major may have an opinion on it but he's just one out of 652 on an issue like this."

Mr Trimble said he had not yet discussed the issue with his parliamentary colleagues. But he added: "My own preference is for disclosure. I do think that it's better for the public to know, particularly on matters like this which affect public confidence in institutions."

But although Mr Trimble's intervention was a boost for Labour's efforts to swing Tory dissidents behind them, the Opposition is not expecting anything like a full turnout of Ulster Unionist MPs and they will not be whipped in tonight's vote. They are hoping for the support of the three Democratic Unionist Party MPs and for two Social and Democratic Labour Party MPs to turn up for tonight's vote.

John Major, who made it clear last week that he would be supporting the Select Committee report, will not now be voting because he will be at the funeral of Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated Israeli Prime Minister. But the political impact of this is likely to be cancelled out by Tony Blair, who is also attending the funeral and is not expected to be back in London in time to vote.

One factor which remains in doubt is whether, if the Labour amendment seeking immediate earnings disclosure is defeated, the Opposition will fall in behind an alternative proposal put by Sir Teddy Taylor, and two other Tory MPs, for disclosure to take place after the next general election.

Meanwhile, Barry Porter, Tory MP for Wirral, last night denied any impropriety in his willingness 14 months ago to enter into an arrangement with a business which approached him to arrange ministerial meetings concerning the Czech Republic.

Mr Porter was approached with the offer by a *Sunday Times* reporter, posing as a businessman.

"At that time this was not unusual and if it had taken place I would have declared it in the Members' Register of Interests," he said.

The approach was revived by the reporter last week and a meeting was arranged for next Tuesday, the day after the vote, at which approaches to ministers would be discussed.

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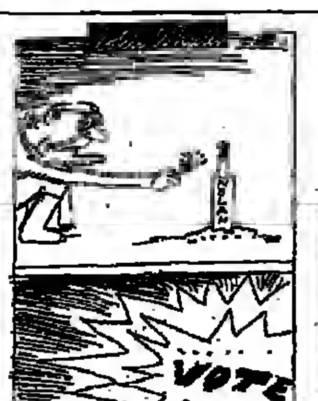

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Brannel School, St Stephen, St Austell, on their award-winning wartime experiences scheme

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مكتبة أمين الإبل

RABIN ASSASSINATION

World leaders vow to keep peace on track

RUPERT CORNWELL
Washington
and DONALD MACINTYRE

DIPLOMACY

President Bill Clinton and the Prime Minister, John Major, were among world leaders heading to Israel last night to attend Yitzhak Rabin's funeral, with Mr Clinton underlining his determination that the loss of "a martyr for his nation's peace" would not deflect the US from its goal of securing a lasting peace in the Middle East.

As the President left, administration officials emphasised that US policy would not change, even though – as former president Jimmy Carter, the architect of the 1978 Camp David accord, put it – the world might have to be "patient" as Israel adjusted to the horror of a shattering act of terrorism mounted not by Arabs, but from within.

The Prime Minister, who will be accompanied by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said in terms that were reflected across the political spectrum in Westminster that the "best memorial" for Rabin would be achievement of the Middle East peace settlement for which he had given his life. Mr Major expressed his great shock and sorrow at Rabin's death, describing him as "a personal friend whom I much admired".

The Queen, who is in New Zealand for the Commonwealth conference and was said to be very shocked by news of the assassination, sent a message of condolence to Israel's President Ezer Weizman, and will be represented by the Prince of Wales at the funeral. Both the Opposition leader, Tony Blair, and Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats, will also attend.

Mr Rifkind, who is going ahead with a visit to the Middle East which was to have included a meeting with Rabin on Wednesday, told BBC Radio: "I believe the peace process itself is irreversible and will go forward." He added: "That is likely to be even more the view of the Israeli government and of the Israeli public. I'm sure there will be a great coming together of people in Israel. But it's difficult to exaggerate the significance of the loss of Mr Rabin as an individual, because he commanded such widespread respect and widespread authority."

Mr Blair said he believed the momentum behind the peace process was "unstoppable". Mr Ashdown declared: "It is vital that everyone now acts to keep the peace process on track."

For US policymakers who had worked with Rabin on and off for almost 30 years, the impact was deeply personal as well as political. "I admired him and I loved him very much," Mr Clinton said shortly after the Israeli Prime Minister's death had been confirmed, lamenting the loss of "one of the world's greatest men". Peace must be, the President declared, "and peace will be Mr Rabin's lasting legacy".

The Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, who in less than three years has paid 13 visits to the Middle East in search of the peace agreement he seeks as the seal on his long diplomatic career, was said by aides to be "broken" by the news.

Demonstrating the esteem in which Rabin was held, Mr Clinton will be accompanied by his wife, Hillary, former presidents Carter and George Bush, and an official delegation including Mr Christopher, Bob Dole, the Senate majority leader and Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, as well as leaders of the Democratic minority in Congress.

Behind its insistence, however, that the peace process was irreversible and would continue, the White House was urgently trying to gauge the damage done. Some drew heart that Rabin's successor – for the time being at least – is his Foreign Minister, Shimon Peres. Up spoke too was relief that Arab extremists were not responsible.

But, they admit, Mr Peres lacks the credentials of Rabin, and cannot provide the cover extended by Rabin's military background and his well-known initial scepticism about peace.

British Jews united in anger and sorrow

JOJO MOYES

BRITISH REACTION

Outside the Israeli embassy in Kensington the message attached to a simple wreath of white lilies displayed the grief of Britain's Jewish community. "I would have taken his place in a second if I could," it read. "No doubt, out of this numbest depth of Jewish history, will emerge Israel's finest hour."

Religious leaders and Israel's ambassador to London insisted the Middle East peace process would not be derailed by the killing. The Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, said: "Peace is still a long way away but the dedication and commitment to it on the part of the Jewish community is undiminished. The process will go on.

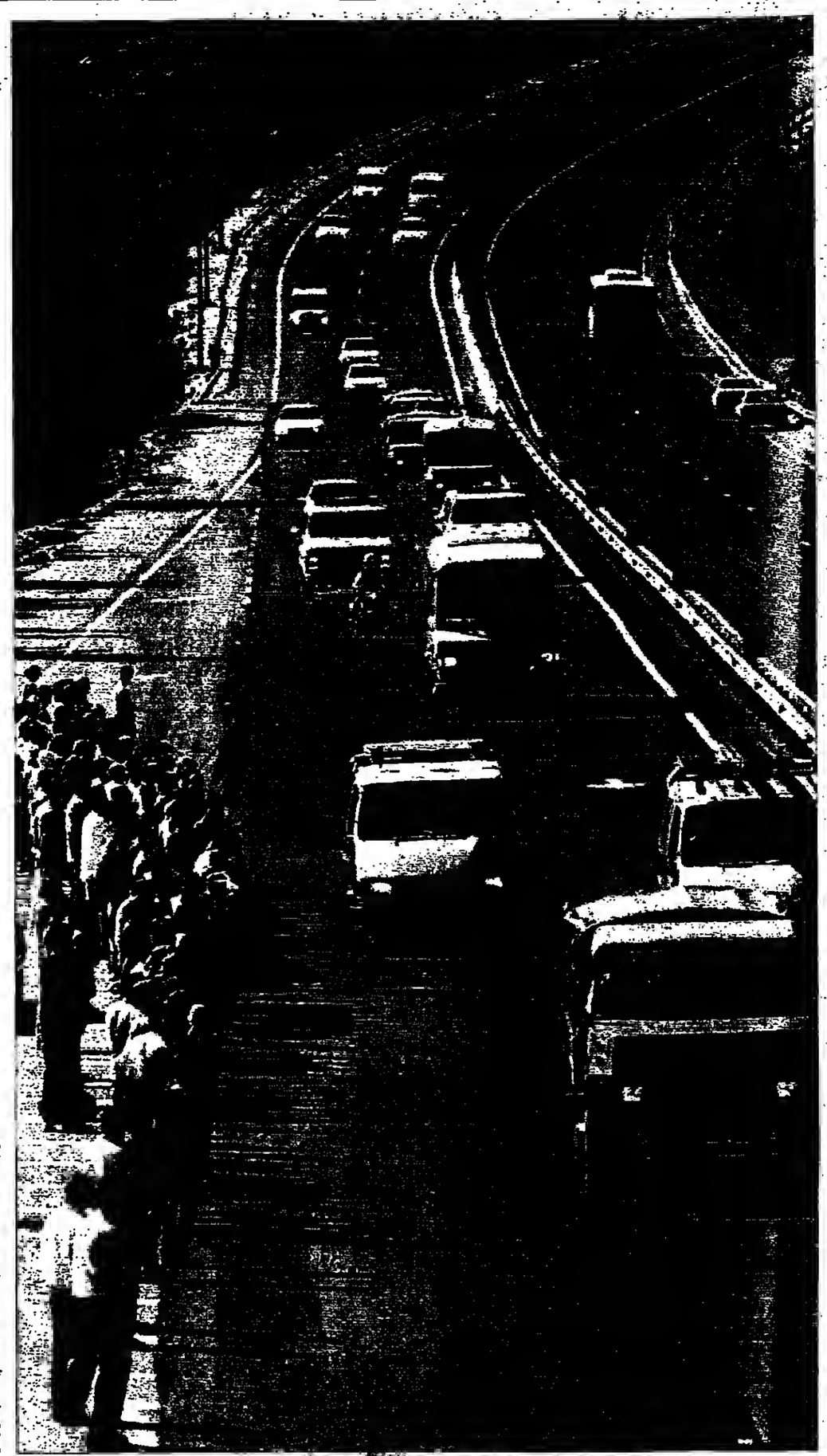
"Yitzhak Rabin will, in our Jewish phrase, be one whose memory will stand as a blessing and the cause for which he dedicated his life will continue and that is our consolation."

Dr Sacks, speaking on BBC Radio, said the assassination was the work of an "unbalanced" assassin and had no religious justification. He said a debate inside Israel in the aftermath of Rabin's murder was imperative. "We must talk this out. We cannot fight it out." Dr Sacks added: "He was a courageous man, bold in war, bold in peace and we will miss him."

According to police stationed outside the embassy, where scaffolding and tarpaulin acted as a reminder of last year's bombing, more than 70 people had come throughout the day to pay their respects. Today at noon the embassy will open a book of condolence.

The president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Eldred Tabachnik QC, yesterday released a statement on behalf of the Board: "Yitzhak Rabin will rank as one of the great prime ministers of Israel and one of the world's great statesmen. He risked his life in the defence of Israel as a soldier. He has now given his life in the cause of peace as a statesman. He was a man of courage, vision, and determination. His death is an enormous loss to Israel, to world Jewry and to the international community."

This was reiterated by the chairman of Labour Friends of Israel, Norman Hogg MP. He sent a letter to the Israeli ambassador in London expressing his sadness and anger at the killing, and saying: "It will be to his lasting memory that the peace process should succeed."



Black day: Israelis waving a black flag as the [illegible] escorting Yitzhak Rabin's body passes near the town of Mevaseret on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway yesterday Photograph: Jerome Delay/AP

World leaders murdered since 1948

1993 – Ranasinghe Premadasa, president of Sri Lanka, blown up by suicide bomber believed to be a Tamil rebel; Melchior Ndadaye, first democratically elected president of Burundi, killed by Tutsi soldiers in attempted coup.
1989 – Rene Moumad, president of Lebanon, killed by bomb; President Ahmed Abdallah of Comoros Islands killed in coup.
1986 – Olof Palme, Swedish prime minister, shot by unknown gunman on the streets of Stockholm.
1984 – Indira Gandhi, prime minister of India, shot by bodyguards.
1983 – Maurice Bishop, deposed prime minister of Grenada, shot by soldiers.
1982 – Bashir Gemayel, president-elect of Lebanon, killed by bomb.
1981 – President Mohammed Ali Raji and Premier Johammed Jad Bahonar of Iran, killed by a bomb; President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, shot by commandos in Cairo; Zia ur-Rahman of Bangladesh, killed by army dissidents.
1980 – William R Tolbert, president of Liberia, slain in coup.
1979 – Park Chung Hee, president of South Korea, killed by head of Korean CIA; Nur Mohammed Taraki, president of Afghanistan, killed in Soviet-backed coup.
1977 – Marien Ngouabi, president of Congo, shot in Brazzaville.
1976 – General Murtala Ramat Mohammed, Nigerian head of state, slain in coup.
1975 – Richard Ratismandrava, president of Madagascar, killed by gunfire; King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, shot by nephew in royal palace; Sheik Mujibur Rahman, president of Bangladesh, slain in coup.
1973 – Salvador Allende, Chilean president, dies in coup.
1971 – Wasfi Tal, prime minister of Jordan, slain by Palestinian guerrillas in Cairo.
1966 – Hendrik F Verwoerd, prime minister of South Africa, stabbed to death in parliament.
1963 – Ngo Dinh Diem, president of South Vietnam, killed in military coup; John F Kennedy, president of the United States, shot in Dallas.
1961 – Patrice Lumumba, former premier of the Congo; Rafael Leonidas Trujillo Molina, Dominican Republic dictator.
1959 – Solomon Bandaranaike, prime minister of Ceylon, killed by Buddhist monk.
1957 – Carlos Castillo Armas, president of Guatemala, shot by one of his guards.
1956 – Anastasio Somoza, president of Nicaragua.
1951 – Abdullah ibn Hussein, king of Jordan; Liaquate Ali Khan, first prime minister of Pakistan, shot by an Afghan fanatic.
1948 – Mohandas K Gandhi, Indian independence leader, killed by Hindu fanatic.

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Arabs who want peace fear genie as evil as the Islamist extremists

Robert Fisk, Middle East Correspondent, wonders when the world will admit that Israel has its own 'terrorist' problem

Beirut — Why the sense of shock? What's the surprise? Why the double standards about the murderer? When will the world admit that Israel has an *Israeli* "terrorist" problem?

I must have been asked these questions a dozen times in the hours that followed Yitzhak Rabin's assassination. And, listening to the reports coming in from Israel, it was not always easy to reply. If an Arab had killed the Israeli Prime Minister, the Arab would have been a "terrorist". But within hours, Yigal Amir, a reserve soldier in the supposedly "elite" Golani brigade, was being described by journalists as a "lone gunman", an "extremist", a "shooter" — whatever that means — and a possible member of the "Jewish underground" (*sic*).

Yet again, an Israeli killer, as opposed to an Arab killer, escaped the terrorist label — because he was an Israeli. It was not just a question of the weary double standards of reporting the Middle East conflict — no journalist, after all, dared to call Baruch Goldstein a "terrorist" after he slaughtered 29 Palestinian worshippers in a Hebron mosque — but the political effect of this hypocrisy on Arab leaders.

If Israel wants peace so much, the Arabs have so often asked, why doesn't Israel deal as harshly with its own "terrorists" as it does with the Arab variety? Or, as a Palestinian put it yesterday, not far from the Sabra and Chatila refugee camps of Beirut, "Jewish settlers have threatened Rabin's life a thousand times — but when one of them carries out the promise, the world is expected to be shocked. These guys are terrorists too — but you never say so." Put at its simplest, Rabin's murder touches the fear of every Arab tempted to make peace with Israel: that there is at the heart of the Israeli state something very dangerous — as frightening as the Islamist enemy which threatens so many Arab leaders, a monster which neither the Israelis nor the Americans have the will or the courage to acknowledge. For Arabs suspect that Goldstein and Yigal Amir and earlier Israeli killers are not *isolated*, lonely, demented gunmen, but the product of a fundamentalist Israeli society that lives on Arab land and which has frequently announced that it will *fight* its own government to keep it.

Anti-Israel demonstrators in Sidon, south Lebanon, gloating over Yitzhak Rabin's death Photograph: AP

The settlements, after all, lie at the very centre of the PLO-Israeli "peace". If they stay, there will almost certainly be no peace. If the Israeli government stands up to them — and this means more than promising to infiltrate Jewish "extremist" movements — then something like peace might just emerge. But Rabin merely threatened their future, and paid for it with his life. He did not actually confront the menace which the settlers represented; and we journalists have done our bit to neutralise the moral issues. CNN has now referred to the settlers who stole Arab land and the Palestinians who lost it as holding "*conflicting heritage claims*"; it would be difficult to find a more deceitful way of reporting the issue.

So was it surprising that after the Hebron killings, it was the Palestinians of the city — the victims of the Israeli settler, Dr Goldstein — who were placed under curfew by the Israeli army? And after Rabin's assassination, it is now the West Bank and the Gaza Strip which have been closed off by the Israeli army — not the Jewish settlements which were so close to Mr Amir's heart. Psychologically, it seems to *Arabs*, they are being blamed for a murder that has its roots in uncontrolled Zionism. And who could blame them for thinking this when the BBC World Service noted that the Arab states opposed to the peace process had failed to condemn Rabin's murder — without mentioning that the killer was an Israeli.

The immature delight expressed by Iran and others at Rabin's death should not conceal the real problems of Israel's internal divisions, which President Mubarak, for one, has privately raised with the Americans on several occasions.

The burning tyres around the Beirut refugee camps, the rocket-propelled grenades fired into the sky over the Sidon camps by those Palestinians opposed to the PLO-Israeli peace, the car-loads of Hizbollah members driving with flags through Beirut; all these reflect despair, distrust and contempt in about equal measure. As the man who launched the bombardment of southern Lebanon in 1993, killing 120 civilians and putting 300,000 refugees on the road in retaliation for the killing of seven Israeli occupation soldiers, Yitzhak Rabin was scarcely going to be regarded here as the man of peace whom CNN spent so much time lauding yesterday.

But there were other lessons to be learned in the Arab world. "What Rabin's murder means is that Israel is just another Middle Eastern country, just like the Arabs — just like us," a Lebanese figure close to the pro-Iranian Hizbollah said here yesterday. "An Egyptian soldier killed President Sadat because he didn't like the peace with Israel. Now an Israeli [reserve] soldier kills Rabin because he doesn't like peace with the Arabs. Israel has become a Middle Eastern society. Their leaders are in future going to be as frightened for their lives as our leaders. They too have a conflict between their secularists and their fundamentalists — just like the Arab societies. Only they won't admit it."

The same man recalled that last week, Sayed Hassan Nasrallah, the Hizbollah leader, the widow of the assassinated Islamic leader Fathi Shkaki, and Shkaki's successor, Ramadan Shallah, all made personal threats against Rabin. "Now just imagine that an Arab had killed Arafat. We would all believe that Israel was behind Arafat's killing. Yet the moment we heard that Rabin had been killed by a Jew, none of us thought that the Jew was working for Islamic Jihad. We know very well how violent the settler society is in Israel. We didn't think for a moment that the Jew had done it on our behalf."

Notwithstanding the public sorrow of King Hussein and President Mubarak and Yasser Arafat, there was silence from Damascus. Not a word came from the palace of President Hafez al-Assad (and thus, not surprisingly, not a peep came from the Lebanese prime minister, Rafiq Hariri).

Time, for the Arabs, is now frozen. And despite all the talk about rededication to peace, the whole "process" of Arab-Israeli rapprochement is now in adjournment.

If Rabin the old warrior could not tame the settlers, the Arabs are now asking, how can the distinctly unmilitary figure of Shimon Peres? Put more simply, what price peace?

RABIN ASSASSINATION

Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin addressing supporters at a rally for peace in Tel Aviv. Shortly afterwards the killer Yigal Amir (centre) shot the prime minister as he returned to his car, before being apprehended by police (right)

Solitary, religious student was 'told by God' to kill

PATRICK COCKBURN
Jerusalem

Seconds after he had fired his .22 pistol at Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, the slight, dark-haired figure of Yigal Amir was caught by the television camera as he was pushed up against a wall by the Israeli police, still clutching the gun.

He later explained quietly in his five-page confession that he

THE KILLER

had "received instructions from God to kill Prime Minister Rabin." When police told him Rabin was dead he simply said: "I'm satisfied."

The 27-year-old third-year law student at Bar-Ilan university admitted he had tried to kill Rabin twice before but had not been able to get close enough.

On Saturday night he emerged from a passageway behind the podium just as the Prime Minister returned to his armour-plated car, and shot Rabin at almost point-blank range.

He said he had planned to shoot Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, if he had accompanied Rabin.

Mr Amir's political and religious background is typical of the right-wing extremists in Israeli politics. Of Yemenite origin, he grew up in a large family with seven brothers and sisters in Herzeliya, north of Tel Aviv. His father was religious and his mother taught in a kindergarten. He went to a religious school and then to a yeshiva (religious college) in Ashdod. He was conscripted into the army and served in the Golani brigade. On leaving the army he went to Bar-Ilan.

The university is considered conservative and right wing and is favoured by religious, but not necessarily fanatical, students from Tel Aviv. According to other students, he belonged to a religious group and had shadowy associations with Kach and Eyal, two of the most extreme right-wing and anti-Arab parties. Other students say he would try to recruit them to spend weekends in the West Bank with settlers.

Mr Amir's decision to kill Rabin seems to have been taken almost a year ago. In January he waited for him at Yad Vashem, the memorial in Jerusalem to the victims of the Holocaust. But the explosion of a bomb planted by Islamic Jihad, the militant Muslim group, which killed 21 soldiers at Beit Lid, led the Prime Minister to postpone his visit.

"He would say: 'We have to stick it to Rabin and his government'," a fellow student said. Other students said he was solitary. Avner Goldschmidt, a friend, said: "He was a wonderful person. I don't understand how he could do something like this." Mr Goldschmidt said he got to know Mr Amir when he joined settlers in the West Bank this summer in reestablishing a settlement in Barkan, near Nablus.

Television news footage of the settler demonstration on 31 July shows Mr Amir fighting police as they ejected him from the makeshift encampment erected by settlers on the disputed West Bank hilltop. "Most of the people at the July rally were fairly calm, but Mr Amir's behaviour was extreme, overtly hostile, both to the police and to the press," said a Reuters Television cameraman, Eli Berelzon, who covered the incident.

"Amir screamed at us, 'Why are you filming this? Why do you people dance on blood?' " Mr Berelzon recalled.

Right tries to play down link to extremists

PATRICK COCKBURN
Jerusalem

Israeli right-wingers were running for cover yesterday, fearing political oblivion if the public becomes convinced that the venom of their attacks on Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, led to his assassination.

"There is no compromising with Messianic politics," says Professor Yaron Ezrahi of the Hebrew University, denouncing the use of violence by religious idealists as a threat to Israeli democracy. He points out that at a recent rally in Jerusalem members of Likud silenced Rabin by cutting off his microphone. Now an assassin has silenced him for good.

Parallels like this are exactly what Likud does not want to hear. Over the last year settler groups had made repeated threats of violence if the Oslo agreement went ahead. Most of these were directed against Palestinians and the government was tolerant. But in recent months it was Rabin and Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, who were demonised.

Earlier this year Ari Rath, a former editor of the *Jerusalem Post*, said that he was worried not just by the fact that the right put up notices showing Rabin as a Nazi but that nobody bothered to take them down.

The Labour party and the government seemed unconcerned by the growing atmosphere of violence.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the leader of Likud, the main right-wing grouping, did nothing to quell the far right. At the same time he was careful not to adopt their slogans and their policies. His aim was evidently to get their votes but without painting himself into a corner by promising to tear up the Oslo accords.

Some Likud members were more extreme. Arik Sharon, the former Defence Minister, is nominally a settler himself having taken over a house in the Old City of Jerusalem in 1987. But one commentator asked derisively whether the Likud members of the Knesset who were voluble about the need to defend the settlers were planning to move to the West Bank themselves.

Yigal Amir, Rabin's assassin, was not from a settlement but over the last year he took part in their demonstrations. The settlers now fear that they will attract a deep and lasting unpopularity.

It is also true, however, that after Baruch Goldstein, a settler from Hebron, killed 29 Palestinian worshippers at a Hebron mosque in 1994, the government passed up the chance to clamp down on religious extremists. It may do so again.

Since the founding of the state in 1948, much of Israeli politics has revolved around the tension between religious and secular Jews. Israel was established as a Jewish state, but there were continued disputes about what this meant. Israelis tend to be much more conscious of this friction than the outside world which saw Israeli nationalism as being little different from anywhere else.

The most significant development over the next few weeks will be the degree of the split between the religious and the secular right. Mr Netanyahu will have difficulty in straddling the two as he has done in the past and will distance himself from the settlers and other far right factions.

Liberal and secular Israelis hope that the trauma of the assassination will permanently weaken the religious and nationalist right.

Mr Peres will try to ensure that it does, but, such is their strength, it is unlikely that he can permanently succeed.

Widow's grief: Yitzhak Rabin's wife, Leah, arriving at the Knesset yesterday Photograph: Yannis Behrakis

Damascus remains key to Middle East settlement

MICHAEL SHERIDAN
Diplomatic Editor

COMMENTARY

Three questions face the Middle East this week in the aftermath of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. Will Israel's left-of-centre government retain its grip on power until the general election due in November next year? Can Shimon Peres, named as acting Prime Minister, forge a domestic base strong enough to conduct Israel's last crucial set of negotiations with Syria? And does the violent shock of the assassination make it more or less likely that Syria itself will edge closer to a settlement?

President Bill Clinton, the Prime Minister, John Major, and a host of senior international figures will be present at today's funeral in Jerusalem principally to mourn Rabin. But they will also take this opportunity to reinforce the initiative to settle the dispute between Arabs and Jews that has caused five regional wars – in 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973 and 1982 – and continues to exact a steady toll of victims. The Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, will be flying on from Israel for a series of meetings with Arab leaders and it is likely that the US will also seek to generate new momentum in the stalled talks with Syria.

Yesterday, diplomats closely engaged in the peace negotiations believed Mr Peres would pursue and perhaps even accelerate talks with Damascus, knowing that under Israeli law he may now lead a transitional government with a 61-59 Knesset majority through to the 1996 elections. Barring the usual crop of Israeli coalition crises, he should retain his grip on power.

The key figure needed for a Peres government to succeed in that policy will be the former army chief of staff, Ehud Barak, at present Minister of the Interior, perhaps the only figure capable of providing Israeli voters with the cautious reassurance that was Rabin's trademark.

Mr Barak has already held confidential talks at top level with Syrian staff officers and knows the military geography of the Golan Heights inside out. He is on close terms with the American negotiating team. His presence in the cabinet – perhaps as defence minister – means that Mr Peres could indeed find the domestic cohesion necessary to conclude a deal.

The effects on Syria itself are likely to be more psychological than tangible in character. President Hafez al-Assad was Rabin's foe in the 1967 war – he held office as Syria's minister of defence while Rabin was Israeli chief of staff. To President Assad, the visit of each envoy since Henry Kissinger 22 years ago has served to shift a small piece on the chessboard, each move serving his endgame of a liberated Golan Heights; thus, perhaps, preserving the stability of his own regime even after his demise. Israelis often talk about the life-and-death decisions over their own security: these are matters of life and death in Damascus, too. The mutual suspicion and caution of Assad and Rabin reinforced the barriers to a settlement.

Rabin had transformed conventional political psychology elsewhere in the Middle East.

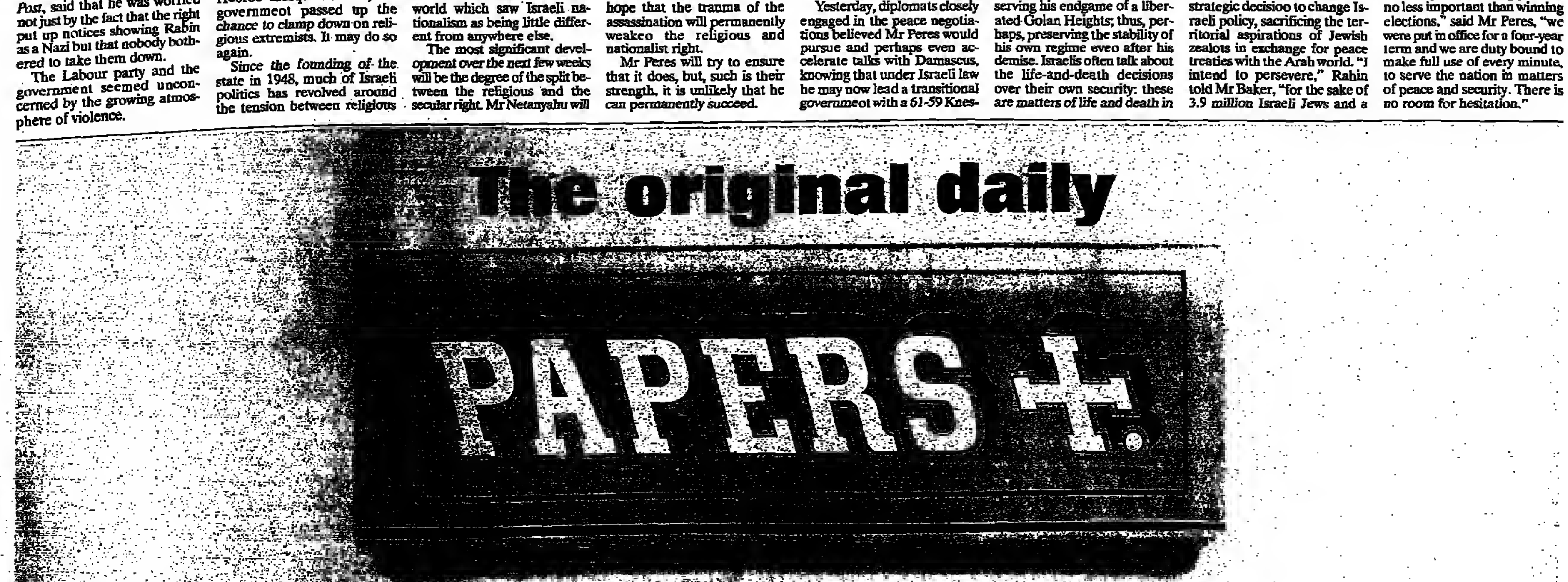
Moved to tears: President Clinton mourns for Rabin

"The atmospheric change was positively seismic," recalled James Baker, then US Secretary of State. In his recent memoirs, Mr Baker recounts Rabin's strategic decision to change Israeli policy, sacrificing the territorial aspirations of Jewish zealots in exchange for peace treaties with the Arab world. "I intend to persevere," Rabin told Mr Baker, "for the sake of 3.9 million Israeli Jews and a million Israeli Arabs who should not have to mortgage their future for 100,000 settlers in the territories."

The fruits of Rabin's policy came through the Oslo accords with the Palestinians and a full peace treaty with Jordan. Together with the 1978 Camp David accords with Egypt, they secured for Israel the end of belligerency on all but its slender northern frontiers.

Damascus thus remains the key: "No war without Egypt, no peace without Syria" said Mr Kissinger. Only last week the Syrian press gave proof that official rhetoric has regressed to the Kissinger era. "Israel has pursued the path of terrorism, murder and massacres since its establishment," said the daily newspaper *Tishrin*, "Israel rejects the return of land and sets conditions under the pretext of peace." The ruling-party daily, *Al-Baath*, said: "The truth is that the real dispute is between Israel and the United Nations as long as Israel rejects the UN resolutions while Syria sticks to them." Mr Peres, interviewed before the assassination, said he believed Syria still wanted to keep their negotiating options open. He made clear his belief that Israel should press on with talks despite next year's election.

"In my view winning peace is no less important than winning elections," said Mr Peres, "we were put in office for a four-year term and we are duty bound to make full use of every minute, to serve the nation in matters of peace and security. There is no room for hesitation."



news

Heseltine steers Tory rhetoric to centre

DONALD MACINTYRE
Political Editor

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday led a concerted effort to retake the centre ground of British politics, amid a series of warnings from senior left-wing Tory backbenchers that a surrender to the right could cost the party the oext election.

Mr Heseltioe rejected Labour claims of a "lurch to the right" by the Tories, with a declaration that "all my life I have fought for 'one nation' Conservatism. I work for a prime minister whose every instinct is for 'one nation' Conservatism. Nothing will shake our passionate advocacy of the political priorities which are in the interests of our nation at large."

His uncompromisingly centrist remarks came amid signs of alarm among left-wing Tory backbenchers that last week's Gallup poll showing Labour at 61 percent, with its third highest lead ever over the Tories, appeared to vindicate Labour's claim that it was drifting away from one nation policies.

David Hunt, a Cabinet minister until the July reshuffle, went out of his way to warn that if the Government listeoed to the "siren voices" of the more "extreme right wing" it would also "move away from ao election-winning strategy". And Sir Edward Heath, in terms which were outspokeo, even by his standards, said that the party conference speech by Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence, had beeo "disgraceful", and that if he and Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State for Social Security, did not want a return to one nation policies they "could get out".

Mr Hunt also exposed divisions on the party's "Christian Democratic" left wing by rejecting the central implications of a recent speech by Chris Patten, the former Conservative party chairman and oow Governor of Hoog Kong. Mr Patten suggested that a "shrinking" of the state was oeeded to match the competitiveness levels of the Asian "tiger" ecooomies.

Mr Hunt said oo BBC TV's *On the Record*: "The UK has got the balance about right betweeo the American and Japanese system, which have very low levels of public spending, and the rest of Europe, especially France, Germany and Italy, that have got levels of public spending too high." A move further towards US and Japanese levels would threaten the social policies which were "critically necessary" to "a fair and just society", he added.

The exchanges came as the Government announced that it had settled the 1996-97 speoding round, at a level thought to be comfortably short of the £263bo ceiling set in last year's expenditure statement, and would not therefore need an extra Cabinet meeting today.

Bot business managers are expected to meet to finalise the Queen's Speech amid convincing indications that Mr Major has backed Lord Mackay's determination to introduce a Bill on divorce law reform in the next parliamentary session.

The divorce Bill was threatened by a rebellion of right-wing backbeochers and there is likely to be heavy emphasis by government representatives oo the scope for amending the Bill during its parliamentary passage

Sir Edward told *The World This Weekend* on BBC Radio 4: "The public sees that ooe group – a minority group in the party – is in fact running the show."

Antique road show: The London-to-Brighton car rally passing through Cuckfield, West Sussex, yesterday. Later, a 1903 Daimler driven by Nigel Mansell overheated outside the home of Brighton Kempton MP Sir Andrew Bowden, who rescued the ex-world motor racing champion with a watering can Photograph: Philip Meech

ITN newsreader in photographs row back on air

REBECCA FOWLER

Julia Somerville: Furious

Julia Somerville, the ITN newsreader, will appear before the cameras to preseot the lunchtime news today for the first time since she became the focus of intense media attentioo after she was arrested last week over allegedly pornographic photographs.

Ms Somerville, 48, and her boyfriend, Jeremy Dixon, 56, an architect, were both questioned by police in connection with the pictures last Thursday evening. Mr Dixon was arrested at a West End branch of Boots, the chemist, where he was picking up a processed film of family snaps. Both have strenuously deoied any wrongdoing.

The couple's home io Muswell Hill, north London, was besieged by journalists when it emerged that they were at the ceotre of the investigation into the photographs, which were reportedly of Ms Somerville's seven-year-old daughter in the bath.

An ITN spokeswoman confirmed that Ms Somerville would present her professional face to the world today, and will read the news as usual, but appealed for her to be left alooe. "We would ask people to respect her privacy, her home and her family," Janie Ironside-Wood, said.

Ms Somerville was furious that reports of the investigation had been leaked to the press In a statement she said: "I am extremely distressed that these unfounded allegations should have been leaked to newspapers," she said. "I strenuously deny any allegation of wrongdoing. Innocent family photographs, processed at Boots chemist, have been completely misconstrued."

A Scotland Yard spokesman denied yesterday that information had been leaked. "We have acted responsibly throughout," the spokesman said. "We are unaware of how the details reached the media, but when we were asked we neither released nor confirmed the names of the iodividuals involved. We must stress that the oormal processes that come into effect whenever any photographic developer is suspicious or anxious about photographs were carried out oo this occasion."

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NOLAN DEBATE

Sleaze or integrity? Rebels hold the key

Richard Body · Edwina Currie · Peter Thurnham · Sir Teddy Taylor · Richard Shepherd · David Wilshire · Hugh Dykes · Patrick Thomson · [illegible] · [illegible] · [illegible] · [illegible]

Twelve of the MPs in vital vote... and amendments which will decide the issue

Advocacy ban

Select Committee: "No Member. . . shall in consideration of any. . . fee, payment, reward or benefit in kind. . . advocate or initiate any cause or matter on behalf of any outside body or individual or urge any other Member. . . including Ministers, to do so by means of any speech, Question, Motion. . . Bill or amendment. . ."

Amendments:
Dr Tony Wright(Lab): add "or by any other means, either formal or informal".
Dale Campbell-Savours(Lab): add "[or] delegation. . . or correspondence. . . where the subject to be discussed affects only the body in which he or she has a paid interest".

Nolan Committee said immediateban was "impracticable" and that further thought was needed before a decision on whether. . . a ban was. . . appropriate".

Earnings disclosure

Select Committee: that MPs should register with the new Parliamentary Commissioner (Sir Gordon Downey) details of outside contracts which involves the provision of services in his capacity as an MP. . . excluding the amount of any fee or benefit".
Amendments:
Labour, Liberal Democrat, SNP front benches: delete from "excluding" and insert: "including the fees and benefits payable in bands of: up to £1,000, £1,000-£5,000, £5,000-£10,000 and thereafter in bands of £5,000.
Peter Thurnham, Sir Teddy Taylor, Patrick Thomson also supported by David Wilshire delete from "excluding" and insert: "[and] to provide full details of financial benefits arising directly from positions relating to the promotion of particular interests concerning Parliamentary business and. . . that the new arrangements be implemented after the next general election."
Nolan Committee recommended earnings disclosure for "full understanding of the nature of the service expected [by a business or consultancy of an MP]".

MPs as paid advisers to multi-client lobbying firms

Select Committee: Ban on multi-client firms "will not work". "A multi-client organisation could operate through a series of single client subsidiaries" and anyway the advocacy ban is much more effective.

Amendment:
SNP [illegible] member shall enter into an agreement for the provision of services [illegible] any [illegible] engaged in lobbying or public relations on behalf od more [illegible]
Nolan Committee [illegible] ban on [illegible] to multi-client firms: "We can [illegible] between MPs and public relations or lobbying firms [illegible] as advisers and advocates for a constantly changing range of miscellaneous and often undisclosed interests."
This is a simplified summary of the most important of the 28 amendments submitted for the debate today.

As the Commons prepares for a night of high drama, the Government faces a revolt from a dozen backbenchers. **Don Macintyre** reports

Days of political high drama do not come much more dramatic than the Tuesday afternoon just over a year ago when John Major announced that he was setting up an inquiry under Lord Nolan into standards in public life. The 25 October anoouncement came on the same day as Mr Major sacked his trade minister Neil Hamilton, whu admitted that, as a backbench MP, he had taken an undisclosed free stay in the Paris Ritz from Mohammed al Fayed, the boss of Harrods.

It was the cumulative effect of the allegations – denied by Mr Hamilton but not, in the end, by Tim Smith, Graham Riddick or David Tredinnick – that as back-bench MPs they had accepted offers of cash for asking parliamentary questions, that finally convinced Joho Major the weekeod before his announcement that nothing short of a wide-ranging enquiry under a leading judge would du.

It is that issue – huw to deal with the money-making temptations availahle to ordinary MPs – that has to he resolved in what promises to be another Commons drama tonight, with the Government facing a revolt by more than a dozen of its backbenchers.

When Nulan reported in May, it was clear that MPs should continue to be allowed uutside interests. But it also pointed uut how those interests had changed over the years. A generation ago many MPs had other jobs, as farmers, or bona fide businessmen or solicitors. But now, 30 per cent of all MPs had consultancies paying them for knowledge and uccess because they sat in Parliameot.

> Both sides, as they seek to maximise their votes today, are guilty of a little myth-making

There was, moreover, another problem. A governing 1947 Commons resolution had made it clear that an MP could not enter intu any contract with a firm which required him to advocate its interests in the Commons. But the subsequent Register of Members' Interests, hy requiring MPs to register interests "which might reasonably be thought by others to influence his or her actions speeches or votes" seemed to assume that MPs could be expected to pursue their clients' interests in lhe Commons provided they registered them properly.

Arguing that this discrepancy was "wholly unsatisfactory", the Nolan report proposed that the 1947 resolution should be clearly restated. It considered going further than the 1947 resolutioo by banning advocacy altogether but rejected this as "impracticable", at least in the short term. The passage io which the committee explains the reasons for this appears to argue that MPs would then have to end many of their outside contracts in order to be free to speak and vote uo many issues with which they were personally and geouinely concerned.

The report could also severely hamper union-sponsored MPs (though Labour plans to switch union cash from MPs to their constituencies could get round that problem), and the paid advisers to organisations like the Police Federation. Instead, it proposed a ban on MPs acting as paid advisers to multi-client consultancies, such as lobbying firms, and, secondly, that from this month MPs should have to register the worth of their outside interests.

When the report came out, Mr Major was quick to say that he agreed with the "broad thrust". It was not until the following week that the scale of oppositioo among Tory MPs, especially on earnings disclosure, became evident. There was an angry debate on May 19, for once uniting Sir Edward Heath and many on the Tory right in opposition to Nolan. So much so that deep unrest over Nolan was now helping to destabilise Mr Major's leadership.

Nor was the anger deflected by the fact that the day hefore, Sir Jerry Wiggin had admitted using the name of another MP to promote an amendment to the Gas Bill in which he had a commercial interest. It was therefore predictahle that the Select Committee charged with implementing the report could not agree before the summer recess – with the Tories vehemently opposing disclosure.

Tories on the committee, astute enough to see the limitless political damage uf not putting sanctions in place of disclosure, revisited the idea uf an advocacy ban. When it came out last week, the majority Select Committee, with the chairman Tony Newton using his casting vote, rejected disclosure. Instead, it proposed an addition tu the 1947 resolution saying that no member for "fee, reward ur benefit in kind" was allowed to "advocate or initiate any cause ... on behalf of any outside body."

The advocacy ban was unanimously agreed but the committee again split on whether the ban should also apply to delegations to ministers on behalf of an outside body in which the MP had a commercial interest. The Opposition wanted MPs banned from taking part in, or arranging, such delegations, which is what Labour MP Dale Campbell-Savour's amendment seeks tu restore. The Tories only that the MP should register it if he did so participate.

The committee did not consider the case of informal meetings where an MP might press the case of a clieot, which Tooy Wright's amendment seeks to remedy. The committee unanimously came down against the Nolan-proposed han on multi-client consultancies, oot least because it thought firms would simply re-form to create a series of single client ones. Those splits in the committee are faithfully reproduced in the main amendments which the Opposition will press tonight.

Both sides, as they seek to maximise their votes today, are guilty of a little myth-making.

It is not true, as Labour have implied, that the 1947 resolution already bans advocacy so that the Select committee report has nothing new to say on this issue: the 1947 wording bans contracts for an MP to act as an advocate. And it is not true, as some Tories claim, that disclosure would deter MPs with uther jobs frum being an MP. A farmer, or an industrialist, in his own right would not have to disclose his earnings under the terms of Nolan.

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Greenpeace prunes UK branch

NICHOLAS SCHOON
Environment Correspondent

Greenpeace UK has decided to cut one-fifth of its salaried staff and turn thousands of its local fund-raising volunteers into trained campaigners.

The changes, which affect every part of the organisation, were approved by Greenpeace UK's board last week. Executive director Lord Peter Melchett, the driving force behind the shake-up, said it was needed to ensure Greenpeace remained "a thorn in the flesh" of those who wrecked the environment.

The job cuts, which have been under intensive discussion for two months, have damaged morale. "People are anxious about their own jobs, or sad that friends are leaving," Eton and Cambridge-educated Lord Melchett, said.

The number of salaried staff will fall from 83 to 65, but the actual number of redundancies is likely to be only about 10 because there were already several vacancies.

Until now, Greenpeace UK's 230 local groups have been heavily involved in fundraising through activities such as street and door-to-door collections, sponsored walks and selling Greenpeace merchandise.

They will be expected to do much less of that in future and this will cost the organisation £200,000 a year in lost revenue. Instead, the board wants them to take part in mass protest actions, such as the recent demonstration outside Chequers when John Major met the French President, Jacques Chirac.

The international environmental pressure group has a tradition of using small numbers of commissioned, modestly-paid activists for its potentially dangerous protest actions. They need special skills, such as flying helicopters, piloting inflatables and mountaineering up sheer structures.

But in the UK and some other European nations, Greenpeace is coming to the view that involving a much larger number of supporters in direct action is equally important. This year this has happened with "invasions" of British Nuclear Fuel's Sellafield plant and a Bastille Day party at the French Embassy, as well as at Chequers. Volunteers have been given training in non-violent protest techniques.

"Our supporters were more and more anxious to get involved," Lord Melchett, a junior minister in the last Labour government, said.

"They think they can make a difference."

At head office in Islington, north London, the aim is to keep the annual budget at just over £4m a year. Cuts in jobs and administration will save £600,000 a year. An extra £200,000 will be devoted to campaigning and £100,000 more spent on building up cash reserves.

The budget for recruiting new supporters through advertising and mailing campaigns is going up by £100,000 a year. Greenpeace said it now has 350,000 supporters – people who have given money in the past 18 months – compared to about 400,000 at its peak a few years ago.

"We've been living off the gains which came with our very rapid growth in the late 1980s," Lord Melchett said. "It's time to take off in new directions, to be more imaginative and do the unexpected."

He said the Brent Spar campaign of the summer had so far had no overall impact on donations and support for Greenpeace UK. A one-off appeal immediately after Shell backed down and abandoned plans to dump the giant oil storage buoy at sea did, however, raise about £100,000.

In Britain, the organisation will be investing more in campaigning for solutions to environmental problems. It is particularly keen on solar energy.

One thing that will remain constant is Lord Melchett himself. After running the UK organisation for six years he is Greenpeace's longest serving executive director among the 30 nations where it has offices.

Melchett: Still in charge

IN BRIEF

Search for killer after car shooting

Police are hunting a gunman who shot a man three times at point-blank range as he got out of his car. Derek Palmart, in his forties, of Feltham, Middlesex, died after being hit twice in the head and once in the heart by a gunman wearing a crash helmet as he fetched a coat from his car in Kilburn, north London, on Saturday evening. Police are keeping an "open mind" about the motive.

Schools initiative

David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman will today try to steal a march on the Government by inviting councils to pilot schemes for raising standards in poor schools by sacking the head, weak teachers and replacing some governors.

Priest resigns

A Presbyterian minister at the centre of an investigation into the import of pornographic videos has resigned. The Rev. David Templeton, of Trinity Church in Greyabbey, Co Down, had been on sick leave following the allegations.

Caine tribute

Ken Ives, husband of the comedienne Marti Caine, thanked fans for their support during her fight against cancer. Ms Caine, 50, died on Saturday, a day after discharging herself from hospital following a relapse.

Lottery winners

Three ticket-holders won a share in Saturday's National Lottery jackpot of £8,395,869. They matched the winning numbers of 6, 14, 18, 27, 44 and 48, reaping £2,798,623 each. The bonus number was 1.

Beatlemania revival: Collectors devour the tacky and trivial as band survivors attack use of songs in commercials

Fans weep over plastic guitars

DAVID LISTER
Arts Correspondent

It is the most limited limited edition in the world. In 1958 The Quarry Men, an embryonic pop band later to be The Beatles, made an acetate – a demo recording – of a song called "In Spite Of All The Danger". There is just one copy. If you have it, polish it. Its estimated value now is £100,000.

That song, the only one written by Paul McCartney and George Harrison, will feature on the CD released later this month to accompany *The Beatles Anthology* television series.

Beatles memorabilia has always commanded high prices. But the renewed interest in the group is reinforcing interest in the tackiest ephemera.

Records, as opposed to ephemera, are also being sought by collectors. Frustratingly, many are items that were common at the time and discarded by fans who did not anticipate a Beatles revival.

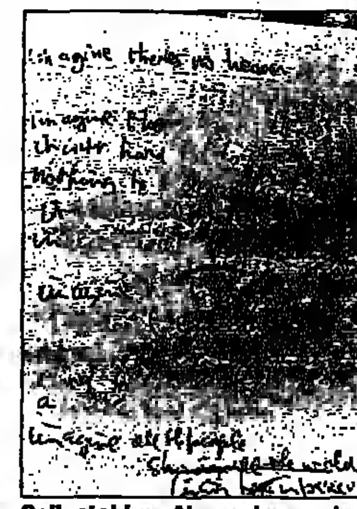
For example, the last Beatles album released was the box set of *Let It Be* in 1970. The box containing album and booklet was held in place by a cardboard tray and was so hard to open that nearly every copy got ripped or thrown away. If yours did not, it now fetches £150. The original of their first album, *Please Please Me* in 1963, rates £150 for the mono version, and £750 for the stereo.

Ephemera continues to sell, of course. A stud from the Abbey Road zebra crossing sold this year for £380.

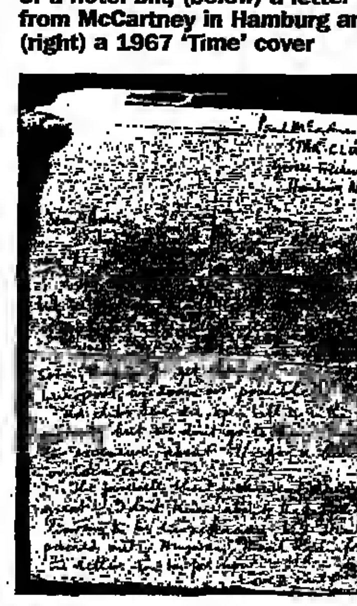
With interest in the group again reaching near manic proportions, some of the wanted ads for Beatles memorabilia have a mid-Sixties look. One collector is offering £700 for any set of Beatles autographs – despite the fact that the group often had their road managers fake their autographs; £1,000 for Beatles posters; and £10,000 for an original manuscript of Lennon and McCartney lyrics.

Tracks, in Chorley, Lancashire, is the country's biggest specialist dealer in Beatles memorabilia, selling mainly in America and Japan. Paul Wane, the proprietor, said: "People went through the Sixties, got married, and put all their Beatles things up in the attic. There's an awful lot of the really tacky bric-à-brac that came out in the Sixties, but there's a huge market. A plastic Beatles guitar will now fetch £300."

However, Mr Wane's prize possession is a lyric to what be describes as a "truly terrible" unpublished song by John Lennon, on offer for £60,000.



Collectables: Above, Lennon's lyrics to 'Imagine' on the back of a hotel bill; (below) a letter from McCartney in Hamburg and (right) a 1967 'Time' cover



Jackson 'cheapens our songs'

The three remaining Beatles yesterday attacked superstar singer Michael Jackson for "cheapening" their work.

Jackson bought the rights to the Beatles' music for £50m and has allowed some songs to be used in television commercials.

George Harrison warned: "Unless we do something about it, every Beatles song is going to end up advertising bras and pork pies."

Paul McCartney said Jackson – with whom he recorded two singles in the 1980s, "Say Say" and "The Girl Is Mine" – had "cheapened" the songs.

Their comments came just ahead of the release of the *The Beatles Anthology* album later this month, which will feature the first new tracks for 25 years.

The Beatles spoke of the "magic" of recording new tracks together again. "Free As A Bird" and "Real Love" were recorded by Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr and George Harrison from tapes started by the fourth Beatle, John Lennon, who was murdered in 1980.

But on the two tracks, and thanks to multi-track recording equipment, Lennon's voice joins his old friends in the Abbey Road studio. McCartney told *Elle* magazine: "It was all very strange and very magical."

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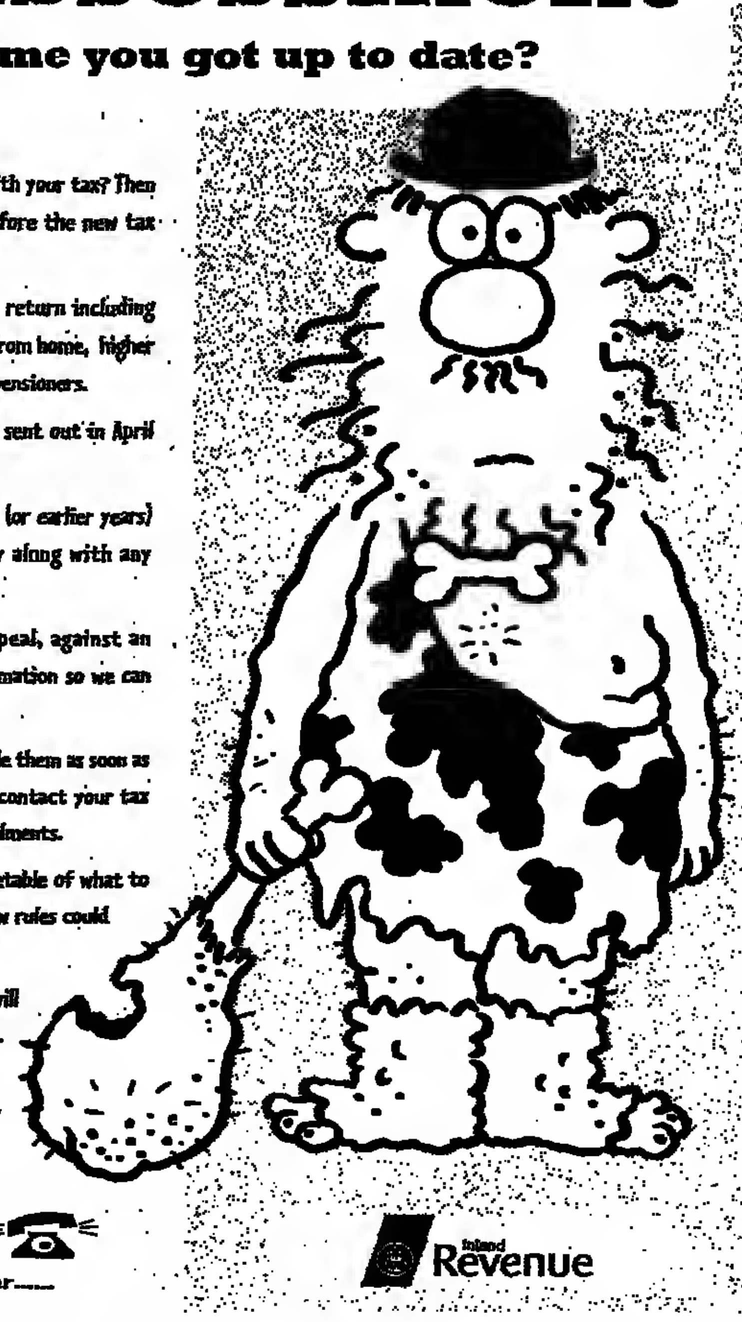

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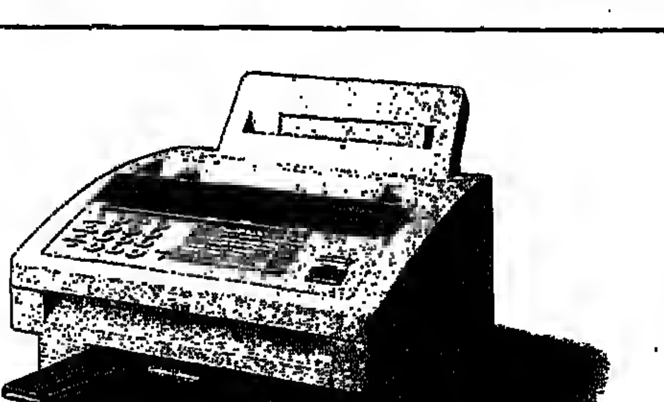

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news

National Lottery: Betting industry calls for cut in tax as changed gambling habits put thousands of shops at risk of closure

Backing a loser: Profits have been hit as people spend their money on lottery tickets, rather than horses Photograph: David Rose

Bookies warn they may not last the course

GLENDA COOPER

As the National Lottery approaches its first birthday, bookmakers claim that unless the Government takes rapid action they will be forced out of business.

On Friday, the independent bookmakers Stanley Leisure announced that half-year profits were "significantly below" that achieved for the comparable half year in 1994-95. Three days earlier, Vernons Pools had announced 150 redundancies. Both companies blamed the National Lottery.

The bookmakers want the Government to reduce betting tax by 2 per cent, allow bookmakers to bet on lottery numbers and accelerate the deregulation process which will permit jackpot and fruit machines in the shops.

Last month a report from the Henley Centre estimated that 2,400 of England's 9,300 betting shops would have to close, unless the Government cut betting tax by 2 per cent. The "big three" – Ladbrokes, Coral and William Hill – own about 5,000 shops between them; the rest are owned by small independents, who are suffering most.

Don Bruce's father and grandfather both worked as bookmakers and he entered the business in 1948. He got his first shop in 1963 (cash betting only became legal in 1960) and now owns 12 shops around London, which are currently losing him £50,000 a year.

He would like to sell his shops, but fears trading conditions are so bad at the moment that no one would buy.

"It's never been worse," he said. "We've got some good and some marginal shops. The marginal shops are just hanging on while we wait for legislation to come in."

Mr Bruce's greatest loss has been from what he calls the "roulette wheel" customers – who have been lured away by scratchcards.

"There is always an element that use racing but are not interested in the form – the sort that always put a 10p treble on Traps 1 and 2 at Hackney," he said. "They bid on a small scale on famous names. One way or another, scratchcards have attracted this sort of punter. And that's made marginal shops more desperate."

He says that actual turnover has not fallen: "But it has effectively fallen because we've been doing much more hours with the introduction of evening racing and Sunday racing. So we're making less per meeting."

If a shop does not open on a Sunday, the punter will take his bet – and return to claim his winnings – elsewhere. So although most shops will only get 40 per cent of customers they would on a weekday, they are too scared of losing further custom not to open.

But it would be wrong to blame all retail ills on the lottery, according to Ray Stone, assistant director of the Henley Centre. In March, the centre brought out a report, *Lottery Fallout*, which looked at the effect of lottery spending last December and January.

At that time, some of the 10,000 shops and garages with lottery terminals had seen sales rise by as much as 20 per cent since November 1994. Food stores had doubled sales at their tobacco counters.

The report also warned that pubs and restaurants were likely to see trade fall, or at least shift around, as so many people were staying home later to watch the draw. It suggested that cinemas might have to reschedule Saturday evening shows, or even announce the draw themselves.

However, Mr Stone said that these findings were preliminary and some were out of date six months on. *Lottery Fallout 2*, a report which looks at the first full year, will be published at the end of November.

"People should be asking different questions," he said. "It is not all the National Lottery. We should look at what else has made a difference. For instance, the hot weather this summer made people spend a lot more on drinks."

Mr Bruce disagrees. He says he will hang on until the Budget in just over three weeks time to see if the cut in betting tax which would create a "level playing field" appears. "But we can't hang on much longer."

Howard to extend electronic tagging as trial founders

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

The £1.4m trial in electronic tagging of offenders is expected to be extended this week as the Home Office desperately tries to save the plan from disaster.

In the first half of the 36-week experiment only 13 criminals have been given the electronic monitors. The decision to continue the trial for what is believed to be a further three months is seen as evidence that the scheme is becoming unworkable and a huge embarrassment to the Home Office.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, hailed the use of electronic tags – which are placed around an offender's hand or wrist and can be monitored to ensure that the person stays under house arrest – as a significant new development in the fight against crime.

However, in the first half of the experiments magistrates have imposed tags as part of curfew orders on five offenders in Manchester, six in Norfolk and two in Reading. Two people have been returned to court for breaching their orders. The Home Office hopes that an extension will allow further people to be tagged which will enable a proper assessment of the system.

The National Association of Probation Officers claims that Home Office officials have been lobbying magistrates to use more tags.

It estimates that 7,500 presentence reports have been produced since the trial began and that in only 55 cases have magistrates asked whether tagging was appropriate.

A meeting between Home Office officials, probation managers and magistrates will take place this week to discuss the trials. In tests in 1989 only 49 offenders were tagged out of a hopeful 140.

Harry Fletcher of the probation officers' association said any extension of the trial would be evidence that the system was on its last legs.

The Home Office did not deny that the trials were about to be extended three months. It said an announcement would be made later this week.

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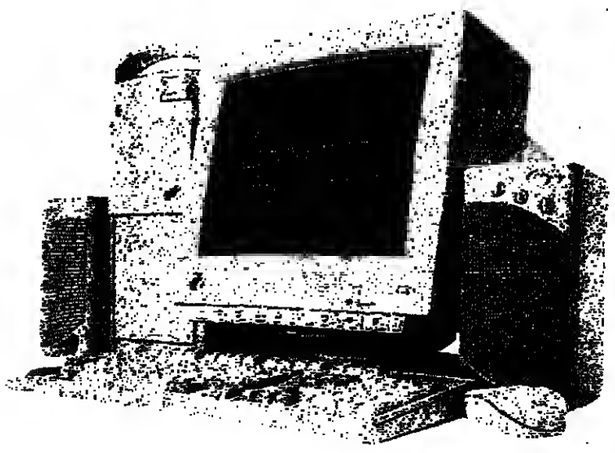

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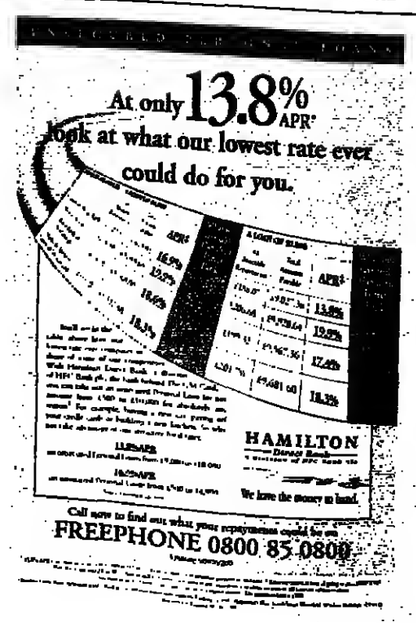
[1]Photograph shows a multimedia model. Multimedia is not available on all models, such as the model priced in this advertisement. Prices start at £999 rising to £2,299 (inc. VAT). See your retailer for details. Retailer prices may vary. IBM Home Page: http://www.ibm.com



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news

Probation hostel wardens offered 'zero-hours' deal

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

Hostel wardens who often look after criminals have been offered Burger King-style "zero hours contracts" by the probation service.

Relief workers in special homes, used for suspects on bail and criminals on probation, have been asked to be on call virtually 24 hours a day, but are only paid when they work.

They are thought to be among the first government employees to be offered the arrangement, which first came to public notice when employment conditions among temporary workers at a Burger King restaurant in Glasgow were exposed. The fast-food chain has since abandoned the contracts.

The auxiliary hostel staff, mostly women, are not expected to wait on the premises for work as they were at the restaurant but in common with Burger King, they are only employed on a pay-as-you-work basis.

Relief wardens in West Yorkshire have enlisted the help of community lawyers to fight the new system, but the National Association of Probation Officers believes the practice is widespread throughout the country and growing because of cuts in budgets. The auxiliary workers in West Yorkshire used to be given substantial notice of shifts, according to lawyers, and some were regularly working at least 30 hours a week.

Cuts have meant that there are no permanently employed wardens available to be switched from one hostel to another in case of absence. Back-up staff have been warned, however, that there will be fewer work opportunities.

One of several women who contacted Kirklees Community Law Centre in Yorkshire – she wants to remain anonymous for fear of losing her job – had been employed as a hostel relief worker for more than two years but had not been offered a contract of employment.

Without specialist training, but with a high degree of "interpersonal skill" required for the job, she was paid £5.74 an hour and relied on it for her income. At times she had sole responsibility for a hostel.

Previously she was notified monthly about shifts she would be required to work. But in September she received a letter from management acknowledging that there may have been "some confusion" about the employment status of assistant wardens.

It added: "As a relief worker, you are employed on a casual, as and when required basis, in order to provide cover when permanent staff are not available. As a casual worker, there is no obligation on you to accept work and equally there is no obligation on the hostels to provide you with work."

Julia O'Hara, a lawyer at the law centre, said it was clear that her client could be called in with little or no notice and that a refusal to accept shifts would eventually lead to the loss of her job.

Ms O'Hara believes her clients have a case under European health and safety law and employment protection directives. They may also have recourse to existing British legislation on sex equality.

Probation service officials in West Yorkshire yesterday argued that the new working arrangements had been forced on them by a reduction in budgets. But a management source conceded that the employment conditions of assistant wardens were "highly unsatisfactory".

Harry Fletcher of the probation officers' union said the growth of zero-hours contracts would lead to a deterioration in the service.

A spokesman for the Home Office, which has responsibility for the hostels, said: "It is not for us to comment on the management of the West Yorkshire Probation Service."

Holiday rights 'worst in EU'

Labour today stepped up its demand for improved rights to paid holidays after a survey showed Britain lagging behind its European neighbours.

British workers are alone in Europe in having no legal right to paid holidays, according to a study by Professor Francis Green of Leeds University School of Business and Economic Studies.

Michael Meacher, Labour's employment spokesman, urged the Government to end its opposition to the European Directive on Working Time, which would guarantee a minimum of three weeks' holiday to all qualifying employees. A total of 1.75 million employees, two-thirds of whom were in the distribution, hotel, catering and other services, would benefit, he said.

He urged the Government to drop its opposition to the directive, which was agreed by a majority of member states two years ago. Britain's case is due to be heard in the European Court early next year.

Professor Green's study, *Union Recognition and Paid Holiday Entitlement*, shows:

■ One in nine workers in Britain gets no paid holiday.

■ Unionised workers receive a total of 4.5 days more holiday on average than non-unionised employees;

■ Part-time and temporary workers and those working in small establishments are most likely to be denied paid holidays.

Mr Meacher said: "This excellent new study shows quite conclusively that Britain is stuck at the bottom of the European league when it comes to paid holidays.

"It is about time the Tories abandoned the myth that employment rights destroy jobs. On the contrary, job insecurity and exploitation does terrible damage to our economy.

"Labour believes British workers should be at the top of the European league when it comes to employment rights."

Sunday banking: NatWest backs personal approach at family-friendly branch

Family affair: NatWest's Lakeside Shopping Centre branch, which offers nappy-changing facilities and Disney videos Photograph: Edward Sykes

Seven-day 'financial store' opens new era

Welcoming words: The new branch's seven-day schedule

JOJO MOYES

Britain yesterday saw the launch of the "bank branch of the future", offering Sunday opening, automated or personal service, and complete with soft-furnishings, Disney videos and nappy-changing facilities.

According to NatWest, the branch at Lakeside Shopping Centre in Thurrock, Essex, is the first UK bank to open seven days a week, all year round. And it is less a branch, the company says, than a financial store; a new concept in banking which rejects the notion that all banking will eventually take place via telephone or digital screen.

"Research tells us that people are very happy to do basic transactional banking over the phone or via machines. But for things like mortgages and pensions they are much less confident," Tim Burfoot, head of NatWest distribution strategy, said. "We wanted to create an environment which was about people, where they could feel comfortable and relaxed. We think this is the branch of the future."

Instead of counters, the bank has cash and foreign exchange machines on one side, along with a telephone which offers direct connection to banking and insurance services.

On the other side it has coffee lounge-type rooms, complete with paintings and soft-furnishings, where customers can talk over coffee with financial advisers. Videos and play-kits are available for small children, along with nappy-changing facilities.

"The emphasis is not on cash but on talking to people," Roger Thomas, the regional managing director, said. "People can be here for some hours discussing pensions or mortgages and they frequently bring children so we wanted to make everything comfortable for them and reduce some of the anxiety and stress people feel in these circumstances."

John Harding, one of two "store managers" at the new branch, denied that the new title was a change in name only. He said the new layout was like a "conventional shop" where people could walk round and store assistants would offer help. "That's why we're calling it a store," he said.

Opening at Lakeside on a Sunday makes financial sense to the bank. With 500,000 customers a week, Sundays are now as busy as Saturdays. According to NatWest there had been little opposition to Sunday opening, either from banking unions or staff, who had oversubscribed the new jobs by 10 to 1.

And the crowd of 150 people who had come to join in the opening celebrations were equally enthusiastic. Sporting badges, balloons and silly hats, they appeared to treat the new opening, complete with champagne, streamers and a loud countdown, with as much enthusiasm as the staff.

"I definitely like it," said Kerry Vale from Witham, shopping with her four-year-old son Reece. "I would rather come on Sunday. And if you've got to sit down and talk then at least there's stuff to keep the kids occupied." Steve Thompson, a 27-year-old hod carrier, agreed. "Sunday's just the same as any other day now really, isn't it?" he said. "It would be better for me as I wouldn't have to take time off work."

He had been standing by the ceremonial ribbon for nearly 25 minutes. So was he impressed by the celebrations? "Not really. There's no need for all this, is there? I'm just waiting to use the bloody cash machine."

Tories 'increasingly dominated' by privileged Oxbridge minority

DONALD MACINTYRE
and CATHY NEWMAN

The myth that the Conservatives have forsaken their patrician past to become a classless party of self-made, self-educated barrow boys and shopkeepers is comprehensively debunked in an academic study to be published this month.

If anything, the leading cadres of the party have shown a greater tilt towards a public school and Oxbridge background since Margaret Thatcher came to power in 1979, the new research reveals. And the trend has actually accelerated since John Major made its demise the theme of his leadership campaign in 1990.

While Tony Blair is on the brink of becoming the first public school prime minister since Lord Home and Mr Major famously went to a state comprehensive, there has been an increase in the number of Tory ministers to have been privately educated and to have attended Oxford and Cambridge.

The report, *The Conservative Parliamentary Elite 1964-1994: The End of Social Convergence*, to be published in the November issue of the journal *Sociology*, demonstrates that in the last 16 years there has been a 7 per cent increase in the number of Tories with a privileged academic background.

The authors, David Baker, Imogen Fountain, Andrew Gamble and Steve Ludlam, from Sheffield and Nottingham Trent universities, say: "The patrician retreat has actually been halted and reversed."

Since 1983, the number of Conservative MPs educated in the private sector and at traditional universities has gone up by 3 per cent.

During the Thatcher years, 19 per cent of ministers were Old Etonians; under Major, 22 per cent. The figure is particularly striking as the proportion of Old Etonian Tory MPs in general has halved since 1974.

The Prime Minister's lack of university qualifications is not matched by his colleagues. More and more Tory MPs have a university degree. In 1964-66, the research found, 24 per cent of Conservative MPs had no tertiary education; the figure in 1992 fell to 9 per cent.

"The party's parliamentary élite, and recruitment into it, remains predominantly the preserve of men from a socially and economically exclusive minority group, and their predominance is being reasserted," the report says.

This pattern may be explained by the social composition of the Tory heartland, which means that public school and Oxbridge educated politicians tend to get selected for safe rural seats.

Steve Ludlam said: "There was a bit of research in the Eighties suggesting that Margaret Thatcher's leadership was heralding 'embourgeoisification'. Our research suggests that this trend has gone into reverse. The Tory élite has a very disproportionate access to safe seats."

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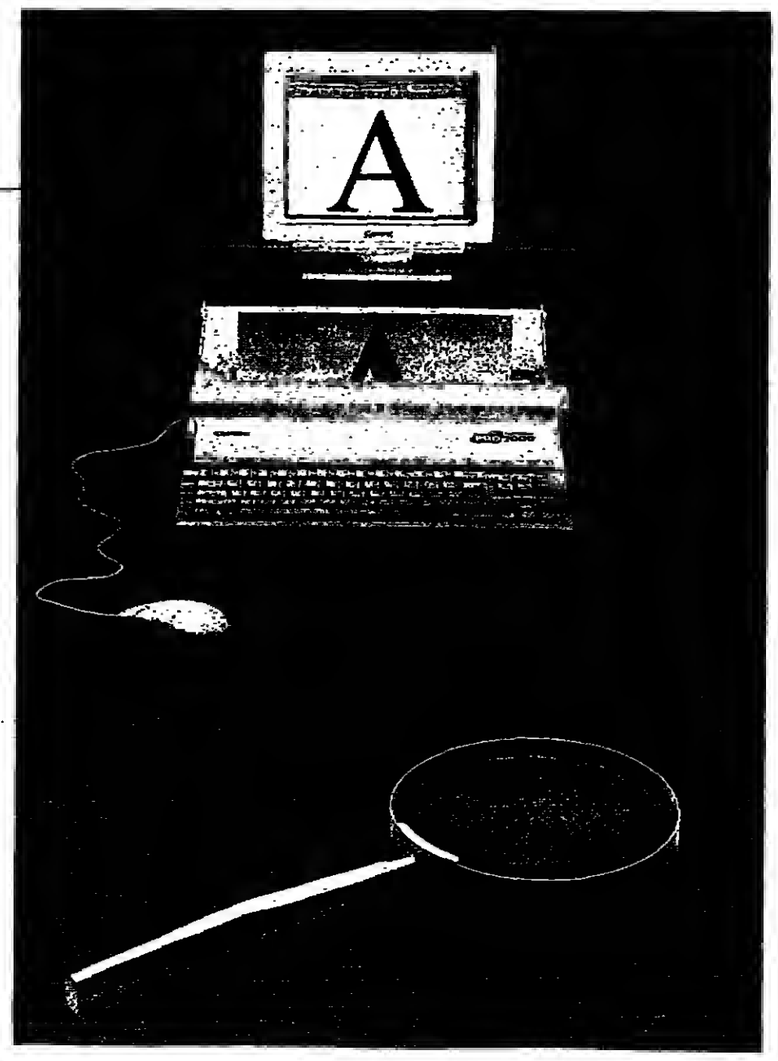


DAILY POEM

Squaring the Circle

By Gwyneth Lewis

Here is the body
of Mary of Burgundy
with a box containing the heart
of her son,
Philip the Handsome.
Was it wise
to become
so centralised?

In a convent in Spain
Joanna the Mad,
enflamed by all
the women he had,
keeps guard at his body
inflamed by the heat
of the gothic fever
that's to be her fate –
her Castilian hate.
For who's to say
where his real heart lay?

And in the Salle des Mariages
the members of Mary's entourage
have been hung like portraits,
so they never think
of rearranging this odd ménage
of three dominions
all out of synch.

For these
are not bodies
but polities
and the truth is
that having Philip back
has given his mother
a heart attack.

Gwyneth Lewis's *Parables and Faxes*, published by Bloodaxe Books has been awarded the 1995 Aldeburgh Poetry Festival Prize for the year's best first collection. It is a scintillating brew of sardonic observation, gleeful whimsy and, as one reviewer remarked, the warmest of commitments to human feeling. She is a story teller *par excellence*, wandering at will through the more interesting aspects of European and Asian history and culture, but equally adept at spinning yarns closer to home in the landscapes of her native Wales. One of the finest poetry books of the year.

هكذا من الأصل

Vice squads in call for brothels to be legalised

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

A third of police vice squads want brothels to be legalised, because officers believe they are fighting a losing battle against prostitution, a new study reveals today.

In addition, almost all the vice-squad officers questioned in England and Wales believe the current anti-prostitution laws are outdated, cumbersome and difficult to implement.

There is also widespread frustration at what officers believe is extremely weak legislation and soft penalties against kerb-crawlers.

The report shows that one in 10 officers thinks street prostitution should be legalised as well. The findings come in a study by the Centre of Criminology at Middlesex University. About 30 of the country's 40 vice squads took part in the research, which found widespread variation in the treatment of prostitutes, pimps and kerb-crawlers.

Many officers admit their work against street prostitutes is practically a waste of time and is carried out to appease complaining residents. However, the report found that the number of street prostitutes was decreasing.

According to the report, there are increasingly tolerant attitudes towards prostitutes who ply their trade in saunas, massage parlours, brothels and strip bars. Officers often stated that their main priorities were to "clean up the streets – not to police sex". And they considered that off-street prostitute posed few law and order problems. Half of the squads said they did not actively police off-street prostitution and only became involved when the public complained.

These areas included Bristol, Bradford, Cambridge, Coventry, Essex, Greater Manchester, Hampshire, Liverpool, Middlesbrough, North Staffordshire, Northampton, Stoke-on-Trent Plymouth and Wolverhampton.

Twenty squads reported a total of 1,231 women working as prostitutes in off-street locations. The number of women per squad ranged from three in Liverpool to 400 in Bristol.

The view expressed by a number of vice teams was that they could do little more than "keep the lid on it". One officer interviewed said: "It's the oldest profession in the book. You'll never get rid of it. Sometimes we feel like we're getting it under control a bit, but you can guarantee as soon as you turn your back, it's back again.

"It's a never-ending problem. That's why I think they ought to legalise it and give them somewhere they can work."

Almost all squads complained about the lack of powers they have to deal with brothels under the Sexual Offences Act 1956. Officers want additional powers of arrest, entry and closure, as well as changes to the law to move the burden of proof to the defence in immoral earnings cases.

The report, *The National Vice Squad Survey*, by Catherine Benson and Roger Matthews, found that the number of street prostitutes had dropped in most areas. On average, about 34 women worked each red light district. The number prosecuted had fallen from 9,196 cases in 1988 to 7,912 in 1993. Meanwhile, the number of kerb-crawlers prosecuted nationally had increased slightly, from 622 in 1988 to 857 in 1993.

The average number of street women arrested per squad was 334 a year, ranging from 2,315 in Westminster to none in Blackpool.

Half of the squads complained that they spent 50 per cent of their time doing paperwork after making arrests, and the vast majority said they spent, at most, a quarter of their time patrolling the streets.

The officers said fines and arrests did not deter prostitutes. When asked what changes they would like, the majority called for the power of arrest to be applied to kerb-crawlers, as well as female prostitutes. Some squads, however, felt that the time had come for experimentation with what they saw as more liberal legislation – such as legalisation – and alternative sanctions, such as community service.

One officer said: "The main problem is that there's no real deterrent. And the system just basically regurgitates them. They work because they've no money, they get arrested and fined, then to pay the fine they go back onto the street and round and round they go. It's just a blip in their earning capacity for that evening, or a form of taxation."

The research showed that some women were highly mobile and worked between different cities.

The powers to punish kerb-crawlers were widely criticised. Average fines were about £110, but in some areas, such as Leicester, they were as low as £25.

Officers considered the fines system at the discretion of magistrates, as something of a lottery. This was reinforced by the view that even when substantial evidence had been gathered, the "*unsupportive*" nature of the judicial system made their efforts essentially a waste of time.

Officers complained that it was particularly difficult to prove a kerb-crawler had "persistently" approached a prostitute and was a "nuisance", as is necessary under current laws.

The report concluded that vice squads saw the need for an urgent review of existing legislation. The authors said: "There is a likelihood that more forces will move towards the informal toleration of these off-street establishments. In the long term, such a strategy could result in more extensive commercialisation of the trade."

How vice squads would tackle brothels

Change in Law	No of squads	%
Power of arrest and entry	10	48
Legalisation	7	33
Power to arrest staff and clients	3	14
Burden of proof to be on defence in immoral earning cases	3	14
Simplify, update legislation	2	10
Power to close brothels	2	10

Kerb crawling fines

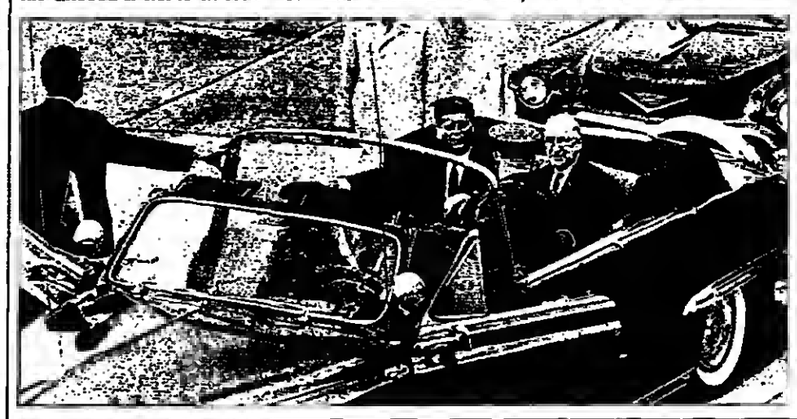
Squad	Level of average fine (£)
Leicester	25
Leeds	50
Plymouth	50
Northampton	50-75
Southampton	50-80
North Staffordshire	100
Bournemouth	100
Middlesborough	100
Doncaster	100
Norwich	129
Westminster	150
Bradford	150
Coventry	200-300
Derby	200-300

Clinton visit: Presidential entourage preceded by large teams of planners

Local hero: President John F Kennedy leaving Cork City Hall during his visit to Ireland in June 1963 (above), and with the then Irish Prime Minister, Sean Lemass (below).

The visit is remembered as a public relations triumph both for Kennedy and for Ireland and included a visit to his ancestral home in New Ross, Wexford. It is, however, a bittersweet memory, since he met his death in Dallas only five months later.

Although President Clinton can be confident of a warm welcome, he can never hope to recreate the adoration and adulation afforded to JFK. As the first Catholic president of the United States, Kennedy was an even greater hero in Ireland than elsewhere. His visit seemed to symbolise a new, outgoing mood in the Republic. Kennedy said: "If this nation had achieved its present political and economic stature a century or so ago, my great-grandfather might never have left New Ross."



US teaches Belfast lesson in security

DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland correspondent

Although the authorities in Belfast are accustomed to mounting huge security operations, even old hands say they have seen nothing to match the preparations for President Bill Clinton's swing through the city.

With the President due to stay overnight in Belfast at the end of the month, large teams of advance organisers have been pouring in for many weeks and more are on the way.

The scale of the activity was such that it was at first thought the Belfast trip was something out of the ordinary, but it has now dawned that presidential visits are always preceded by what might be thought a surfeit of planning and organisation.

There is, however, keen Irish and American political interest in the occasion, since its purpose is to underline the identification of the President with the Irish peace process. He regards his involvement in Ireland as one of his foreign policy successes, and mentions it often in speeches on other subjects.

Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, has said he hopes the visit will inject some momentum into a process which has for many months been deadlocked on the issue of arms decommissioning.

Sinn Fein is heartened by the fact that the Clinton administration has not endorsed the British demand for republicans to give up some arms before all-party talks are convened. Stopping short of this, Washington's line has instead been that all sides should talk seriously about decommissioning.

When the Clinton visit was announced some months ago, Washington's assumption was that talks would probably be under way by now. Since there is no chance of this happening by the end of the month, American sights have been lowered. Now it seems the most President Clinton can hope for is to visit a city which is still at peace.

Detailed preparations for the visit began a month ago with the arrival of a large "site survey team" which chartered a coach and drove all over Northern Ireland inspecting places for the president to visit. Accompanied by British government officials the group, which included specialists in communications, security and media facilities and transportation, looked at 30 sites in three days.

Just over a week ago these were followed by a "pre-advance team" which re-examined some sites and looked at other possibilities. Two weeks from now the actual "advance team" is expected, and only then will arrangements be finalised.

By that stage dozens of possibilities will have been eliminated and a firm itinerary settled for the one-and-a-half-day visit: the US secret service officers have a saying that on the day "everything will collapse into place".

The presidential entourage will be huge, consisting of hundreds of people: his motorcade will contain 30 vehicles. Hotel accommodation in Belfast is already heavily booked, with up to 500 members of the US press corps expected to follow President Clinton. After Belfast the president is due to travel to Dublin.

During his stay he is expected to meet local political leaders, including Mr Adams.

One possibility is that he will host a "revolving reception" so that opposing political leaders need not come into contact with each other. It is also highly likely that he will visit Londonderry to meet the SDLP leader, John Hume.

Britain's ghosts take to outdoor afterlife

Britain has more ghost sightings than any other country in the world – and the most spectacular apparitions are seen outdoors, according to a new study.

There is a theory that ghosts seen in old castles and deserted mansions are the product of fungal spores which can chemically stimulate ghostly hallucinations, according to *Country Living* magazine.

But what explanation can there be for the 40 per cent of sightings outdoors?

The magazine, investigating sightings around the country, divides outdoor ghosts into two main varieties.

The first is the communicative or interactive ghost which is both sensitive to people around and seems able to act under its own steam.

An example has been seen many times across Dartmoor – an enormous pair of hairy hands. Making their first appearance in the 1920s, they have been seen overturning pony traps, taking charge of motorists' steering wheels and clawing at caravan windows.

Ghosts in the second category are more believable. These have been described as paranormal rather than supernatural, perhaps generated by forces of nature unknown to us. Known as cyclical or imprint apparitions, there have been around 10,000 sightings.

They are like a small, 30-second reel of cine film projected on to the air showing someone or something long gone from the area and retained by some force we do not understand. Like celluloid itself, they tend to fade over time, having an average "life span" of around 400 years.

An exception is the oldest ghost in the United Kingdom, the horseman of Bottlebush Down, in Dorset, who seems to date back to the Bronze Age about 2,500 years ago. He usually appears close to the A3081 between Cranborne and Sixpenny Handley, galloping along then vanishing without a trace.

One of the more outrageous is Sir Francis Drake, who hurtles across Dartmoor in a black coach drawn by four headless horses.

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Tamils launch great armada as Jaffna crumbles

Security alert: Sri Lankan soldiers guarding the presidential secretariat building in Colombo yesterday Photograph: Jason Reed/Reuter

TIM McGIRK
Vavuniya, northern Sri Lanka

Using an armada of leaky skiffs and outboard motors that sputter along on a mixture of kerosene and coconut oil, Tamil rebels have launched one of the biggest sea evacuations seen in recent times.

More than 120,000 Tamil men, women and children are queuing on the Jaffna peninsula to be taken by Tiger rebels across the dunes and on to the tiny boats that will carry them on a two-and-a-half-hour journey across a vast lagoon whipped by monsoon rains. The Tamils are fleeing an invasion of the peninsula by the Sri Lankan armed forces, who are intent on capturing Jaffna, the rebel citadel.

Jaffna may fall within days, once the soldiers have defused mines and booby-traps left by the Tamil Tigers. But the troops will find a city emptied of its 300,000 souls. All have fled, save for a few priests caring for elderly people too infirm to move. Hidden around Jaffna are probably a number of Black Tigers – the rebel suicide commandos – who are expected to make a last stand in the city they had once hoped to make capital of Eelam, their independent Tamil state. "Most of the Tigers have left Jaffna. They've crossed the lagoon," said a weary refugee priest who walked through the government checkpoint near Vavuniya. The guerrillas have oot run in panic, but after suffering nearly 1,000 losses in two weeks of fighting with the Sri Lankan forces, they have been ordered to retreat. They are now hiding in the jungle on the other side of the lagoon.

The authorities accuse the Tigers of herding people out of Jaffna and using them as "a human shield for their own military evacuation". The guerrillas may have wanted to protect lives; or they may want to show that Tamils fled the city because they refused to live under government domination. Wary of international opinion, the army does not dare to strafe the refugee flotilla skittering across the lagoon, though it easily could.

Only a few refugee families left Tiger territory by road, through the minefields of a jungle oo man's land and into the government-controlled south. Some said it was because the Tigers refused to let them pass unless they paid 50,000 rupees (£500) for a "three-month visa" into enemy territory. Others insisted that few Tamils wanted to go south because they were afraid of reprisals by the island's majority Sinhalese. Uoable to halt the army's assault on Jaffna, the Tigers lately have turned on easier prey, massacring Sinhalese and Muslim villagers in the borderlands.

These refugees voiced bitterness towards their supposed protectors. After the Tiger chief, Velupillai Prabakharan, broke off peace talks with the government in April and restarted the 12-year-old civil war, many Tamils now openly express fear and distrust of their rebel leaders. "The Tigers may have a dream of Eelam, but not the people. All we want is peace," said one Tamil refugee who came with his family. "We are ready to compromise."

Other recent travellers into the battle zone spoke of a "sense of betrayal" now felt by the Tigers towards the Tamils. A school principal, a teacher, a civil servant, and a dozen businessmen were all killed recently as "traitors". The various Jaffna churches, which in the past supported the Tamil struggle, are no longer as keeo to do so. "The Tigers came to the schools and asked the principals to help in a recruiting drive. The principals refused. They said 'We can't go to homes and ask parents to give up another son and daughter'," a priest said. It is a far cry from the days, not long ago, when many impressionable Tamil teenagers were eager to join the élite Black Tigers and become suicide commandos. Now the Tiger ranks are thinning. Advancing soldiers have found dead rebels – boys and girls – as young as 13. Jaffna refugees claim that the city's bishops pleaded with Tiger commanders several days ago to resume peace talks with the government.

"The Tigers gave us no answer," one priest said, even though in August, President Chandrika Kumaratunga offered Tamils greater autonomy, giving them control over their own land rights, education, and police force.

So far, observers claim that the Sri Lankan forces have taken care to keep down civilian casualties. One recent traveller to Jaffna said: "I heard shells falling all the time and I thought thousands must be dying, but that's just not happening."

More than 400,000 Tamils are trapped by the fighting. They are camping in schools, Hindu temples, conveots, anywhere that gives shelter from the monsoon rains. Where they are huddled, in Chavakachchi, is less than six miles from the battle zone, and the hammering of artillery shells and mortars is relentless.

The fratricidal aspects of this conflict are also apparent. The northern Tamils and the southern Sinhalese have co-existed on this island for centuries. Some blame the British colonialists for upsetting the equilibrium by giving the minority Tamils a boost.

The Sinhalese government cannot decide whether the Tamils, like a rebellious younger brother, should be coddled or beaten. So, confusingly, it does both.

Eveo in the Tiger-run areas, Colombo still pays salaries to teachers, bank clerks and postmen. It also sends food and the very few supplies which the inventive Tigers cannot use for war purposes.

Tamil refugees are in no immediate danger of starving, according to relief agencies. But the danger exists that, denied proper medicine and water purifiers by the government, since these too are bizarrely considered to be *matériel*, Tamils fleeing the war may soon find themselves facing a far more deadly enemy: a cholera epidemic.

Marked woman hopes to unseat Shevardnadze

PHIL REEVES
Tbilisi

Were it not for amazing good fortune, Irina Sarishvili-Chanturia would not have lived to see her countrymen step out to the polls for an election that will almost certainly return Eduard Shevardnadze to the Georgian President's office.

Had the assassins had their way, she would have died with her husband, Giorgi, who was shot 11 mooths ago in one of several unsolved political murders.

But she survived the spray of machine-gun fire, although she still has a bullet lodged near her heart. Since theo, at 32, she has become one of the country's three most popular politicians and head of the Natiooal Democratic Party (NDP), perhaps the best-organised party in Georgia.

Long lines of Georgians spent yesterday queuing in the tree-lined boulevards and cobbled streets outside the polling stations. But Mrs Sarishvili-Chanturia was to be fouod in her Tbilisi office, still wearing her widow's weeds. "Why was he slain?" she asked, then answered: "Because he was a real alternative in the presidential elections." The couple had been preparing for three years for Mr Chanturia, the NDP chairman, to run for the top job.

She blames Georgia's former head of security, Igor Giorgadze, whom the Georgian government has charged with trying to assassinate Mr Shevardnadze in August. The Georgian authorities say he is in Moscow, and suspect he is being protected by former KGB men.

But she also blames the President for surrounding himself with people like Mr Giorgadze. "Even if he is a democrat, it doesn't meao he can't make a mistake," she said. "Sometimes his image in the West is an obstacle for us. It's been very hard to prove he can be wrong."

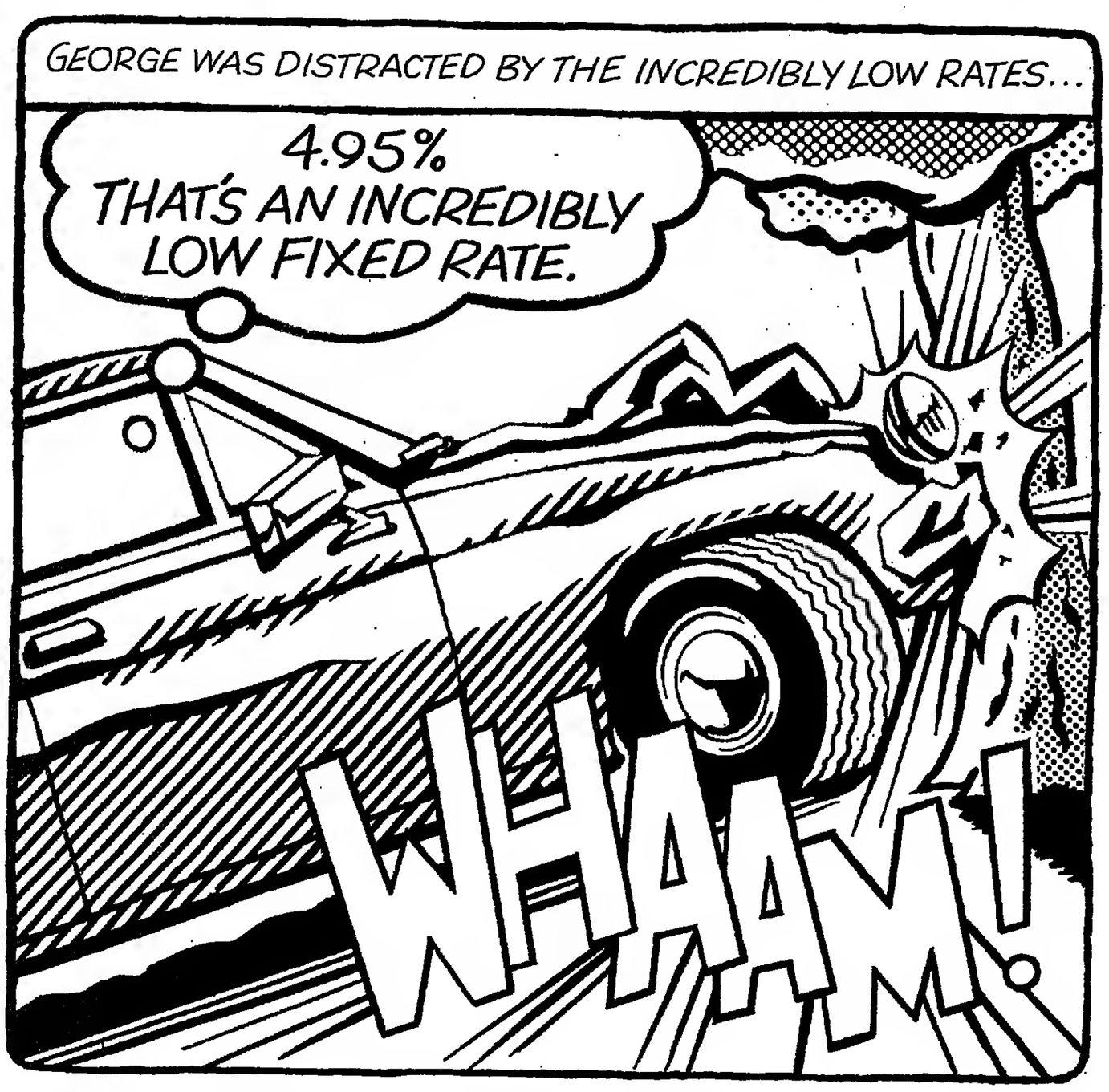
That Mr Shevardnadze has kept strange company is beyond douht. He was propelled to power in 1992 by two militias, the National Guard and the Mkhedrioni (Horsemen), which engineered the coup that ousted presideot Zviad Gamsakhurdia but quickly turned into a lawless mafia. His regime has since jailed many of their members and accuses one of their leaders, Mr Giorgadze, of attempted murder. Mr Gamsakhurdia suddenly died, supposedly by committing suicide.

Such murky politics would oormally cause concern, but not in Georgia. Criticism of Mr Shevardnadze is rare, except from Gamsakhurdia supporters. Time and again, voters in Tbilisi described Mr Shevardnadze as the only choice, a pragmatist who knows how to turn the predatory instincts of Russia and the West to Georgia's interests. The streets are cleared of armed meo, they said; sparse power supplies are improving. Who else is there?

The brutal nature of Georgian politics does not deter Mrs Sarishvili-Chanturia. She now has an escort of six bodyguards.

She believes that her party, which has ties to the Republicans in the United States, won 35 per cent of the vote in yesterday's poll, which included elections to the parliament. She plans to push her party's pro-Western, anti-mafia, anti-Russian ageoda.

"Of course I'm afraid," she said, lighting yet another cigarette, "I'm not mad. But each of us will die some day".



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Andreotti faces murder trial

ANDREW GUMBEL
Rome

The former Italian prime minister, Giulio Andreotti, already on trial for criminal involvement with the Sicilian Mafia, was indicted yesterday on the separate and even more damaging charge of ordering the murder of an investigative journalist who had beeo threatening to reveal some of his darkest political secrets.

Mr Andreotti, the *eminence grise* of the postwar Christian Democrat establishmeot and Italy's best-known politician abroad, was ordered to stand trial on 2 February along with five other suspects for the killing of Mino Pecorelli, a Rome-based magazine editor who was shot in the head twice at close range outside his offices on 20 March 1979.

According to the prosecution, Mr Andreotti, at the time serving the fifth of his seven stints as prime minister, asked his friends in the Sicilian Mafia to arrange the murder because he was afraid of the poteotially damaging revelations that Pecorelli might make about his activities during the kidnap and murder of a fellow Christian Democrat and former prime minister, Aldo Moro, by the Red Brigades in 1978.

Among Mr Andreotti's codefeodants will be two Cosa Nostra chieftains, Pippo Calo and Gaetano Badalamenti, the two gangsters accused of actually carrying out the crime, Michelaogelo La Barbera and Massimo Carminati, and one of Mr Andreotti's closest political allies, the former magistrate and foreign trade minister, Claudio Vitalone.

The case is based almost wholly oo the revelations of six *mafiosi* who have turned state's evidence, including the first and most important of the Cosa Nostra supergrasses, Tommaso Buscetta.

The judge presiding over the preliminary court ruled yesterday that the accounts of the six tallied sufficieotly to provide a "coherent basis to proceed".

Lawyers for Mr Andreotti and Mr Vitalone, however, described the admissioo of their evidence as a "death kneil for justice" and "a web of accusations based on stories that have been cooked up and recooked".

Rumours have been swirling for years that the Christian Democrat leadership, including the faction led by Mr Andreotti, allowed Moro to be killed, because he represented a threat to their party interests and hecause he favoured a political coalitioo with the Communist Party.

Pecorelli had several sources in the iotelligeoce services which he used time and again to embarrass the Christian Democrats in his magazine, *Op*.

Inevitably he made many enemies, and acquired a reputation for obtaining informatioo by blackmail.

One of the prosecutioo's difficulties will be to prove that he had indeed dug up compromising information about Mr Andreotti, since he took his secrets with him to the grave.

There is also a problem with the witnesses, since the two members of Cosa Nostra with whom Mr Andreotti is alleged to have had direct contact, the cousins Nino and Ignazio Salvo, are both oow dead.

The defence will concentrate oo knocking the credibility of the Mafia turncoats, as it is doing at Mr Andreotti's other trial, which began in Palermo oo 26 September. Its biggest liability in both cases is likely to be Mr Andreotti himself, whose statements are ofteo hard to believe, if oot downright cootradictory.

Earlier this week Mr Andreotti said he had had only two contacts with Pecorelli, ooce when the journalist asked him for advice on combating headaches, and again io a letter of coodolence wheo Mr Andreotti's mother died. Both episodes seem very odd for two otherwise unacquainted men.

The Mafia trial in Palermo and the murder trial, which will take place in the central city of Perugia, could take years to complete. The lawyers in Palermo are still arguing about procedure after five weeks in and out of court. Mr Andreotti, who is 76, said yesterday he hoped both cases could be resolved "within a time frame that is oot Biblical".

Prime suspect: Mr Andreotti being escorted to court in Perugia for questioning over the 1979 murder of a journalist, Mino Pecorelli Photograph: Leonetto Medici/AP

Walesa fights for presidency

ADRIAN BRIDGE
Warsaw

Polish voters yesterday faced a perplexing choice between 13 different candidates in the first round of presidential elections.

The list included two former prime ministers, the head of the central bank, a veteran dissident, a beer lovers' campaigner and a popular comedian. Only two candidates, however, were given much of a chance of getting through to the run-off in two weeks time: Aleksander Kwasniewski, a reformed Communist, and Lech Walesa, the incumbent and former leader of the Solidarity trade union.

Mr Kwasniewski, the front runner, was buoyant as he voted in the wealthy Warsaw district of Wilanow. He was adamant that a vote for him would not mean a return to Communism. "Communism is a thing of the past. There is oo sense in its coming hack," said the former sports minister in Poland's last Communist administration who oow describes himself as a Social Democrat. "Poland has moved oo. We are successfully building democracy and the free market and whoever is elected presideot should defend these successes."

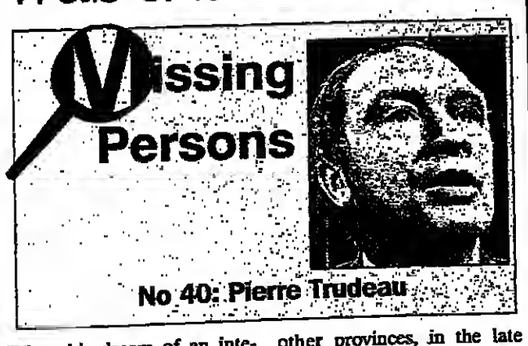
Mr Walesa has based his campaign on the deep apprehension many Poles feel about Mr Kwasniewski and his Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) party holding too much power. The SLD is already the dominant force in parliament and the government and cootrols many local administrations.

In addition to Solidarity, Mr Walesa has won the backing of the Catholic Church, which is terrified that a Kwasniewski presidency could lead to a curtailmeot of its influence.

In his first five-year term, Mr Walesa was criticised by many of his former allies for being impulsive, power-hungry and lacking the educatioo appropriate for such high office.

Opinion polls suggest that most Poles will probably vote for Mr Walesa to keep Mr Kwasniewski out.

Old roué whose vision of Canada was a bit blurred



When his dream of an integrated, plural, and noo-discriminatory Canada died oo refereodum night at the hands of his fellow French-speaking Quebeckers, Pierre Elliott Trudeau had, in effect, gone fishin'.

A politician who towered over the half-ceotury since the Second World War, he quietly celebrated his 76th birthday last mooth. He was prime minister for 16 years, remains active as counsel to a large Mootreal law firm, promotes international trading and investment deals, and has a book on foreign policy coming out this mooth. But, wheo it came to the referendum, Mr Trudeau announced he was getting out of town.

Liberals and former colleagues urged him to sit this one out, because his visioo is oow seeo as anathema to many young Quebeckers.

Even so, his past deeds were never far from voters' minds. The Bloc Québécois leader, Lucien Bouchard, managed to rekindle old resentments about the purported "humiliatioo" of Quebeckers in 1982. Mr Trudeau, with the support of nine provinces, but against the wishes of the separatist Quebec government of the day, had "patriated" the Canadian constitution from Westminster and introduced a Charter of Rights.

The separatists focused criticism on the past role of the present Prime Minister, Jean Chrétien, as Mr Trudeau's minister of justice aod one of his principal allies. But it was the former prime minister's notion of the nature of Quebec society that took more of a beating than his constitution last week.

Rather than build walls around the province to protect its language, religion and culture, Mr Trudeau said Quebeckers would prosper most by playing a strong role in the whole of Canada, in Ottawa. He also created a bilingual civil service, and engineered the machinery of the natiooal government to operate in both languages equally.

His successor as prime minister, Brian Mulroney, struck a deal with Quebec, and several other provinces, in the late 1980s to implemeot a package of constitutiooal amendments. Known as the Meech Lake Accord, it would have led to the Quebec government's agreement to the 1982 constitution, and Mr Trudeao came out of retirement to oppose it.

Quebeckers did not oeed the protection of a clause in the coostitution recognising the province's distinct society and special protection for its language and culture, he argued, because they were capable of competing with other Canadians on an equal footing. His intervention catalysed opposition to the accord in English-speaking Canada, which eventually prevented ratification. When the Mulrooey governmeot made another attempt at constitution-rejigging through a oational referendum in 1992, Mr Trudeau gave a speech to a group of his admirers at a Montreal Chinese restaurant called Maison du Egg Roll, and helped defeat the measures.

Mr Trudeau still commands attention whenever he speaks or travels and he continues to cut a dapper figure, often appearing at balls or theatre openings with an actress or dancer on his arm. They are invariably beautiful. He has been divorced from Margaret, the mother of his three sons, since the mid 1970s. But his reputatioo as a *roué* was enhanced when, at 72, he fathered a daughter. But Mr Trudeau and his vision have always been more popular outside Quebec than within.

So, faced with the results of last week's referendum, which showed that it was only the English Quebeckers and immigrants who preveoted a separatist victory, Mr Chrétien accepted the new reality.

He will oow attempt to implement a new "distinct society" clause, as well as devolving some federal powers to the provincial governments – all to meet what is perceived as Quebeckers' thirst for change. And everybody is waiting to see if Mr Trudeau once again joins the fray to oppose them.

Hugh Winsor

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international

French seek extradition of bomb suspects from UK

MARY DEJEVSKY
Paris

The French judicial authorities were yesterday preparing to request the extradition of two Algerians detained in central London on Saturday under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. They believe one of the men, Abdelkader Benouis, alias Abou Farès, commanded the terrorist cells responsible for recent bomb attacks in Paris and Lyons.

The other was said by a French radio station to be Farouk Deneche, the brother of Abdelkrim Deneche, whom the French tried unsuccessfully to have extradited from Sweden last month in connection with the St Michel Métro bombing in July. Abdelkrim Deneche was freed from custody in Stockholm last week pending deportation from Sweden as an "undesirable alien".

Scotland Yard has refused to confirm or deny the identity of the two men held at the weekend, who are being questioned at the top-security Paddington Green police station in west London, or to give any details. French reports said the two were arrested on Saturday afternoon after several days of surveillance, as they were preparing to leave the country.

Mr Benouis had been named in French media reports the previous day as the commander and possible paymaster of the Paris-based co-ordinator of the bombings. He has lived in London since being granted political asylum in 1993 and edited the British edition of an Islamic newsletter, *Al-Ansar*.

It is not known whether the British authorities knew, when they granted asylum, that he had been sentenced to death in absentia for his presumed role in the 1992 Algiers airport bombing, in which nine people were killed.

French reports say that Mr Benouis, who has had at least three aliases, was the recipient of regular telephone calls from Paris made by Boualem Bensaid, one of 10 people detained by French police last week. The number of Mr Benouis's mobile phone is also said to have been found in notebooks belonging to Khaled Kelkal, the Algerian killed by police after a three-week manhunt in September.

Kelkal became a wanted man after his fingerprints were allegedly found on a bomb which failed to explode on the high-speed train line near Lyons in August. French sources now say that Mr Bensaid's fingerprints were found on that bomb, too, and on the remains of the bomb which exploded at Maison Blanche Métro station in Paris on the day of Kelkal's funeral. They also say that in Mr Bensaid's Paris flat police found quantities of sodium chlorate – one of the explosive agents common to the Paris and Lyons bombs – detailed maps and timetables of the Paris and Lyons Métro and railway networks, an automatic pistol and foreign bank documents.

The identification of Mr Benouis and the "London connection" by the French media followed several weeks of criticism from French officials about what they saw as Britain's lax approach to the activities of Islamic fundamentalists.

Saturday's arrests were accordingly greeted in Paris with a mixture of "we told them so" and condescending approval that the British authorities appeared to be acting on pledges of a harder line given to President Jacques Chirac in London 10 days ago.

However, French reports also noted that the Paris investigators needed to make out a better case for the extradition of Mr Benouis than they had for the extradition of Mr Deneche from Sweden. Otherwise, they warned, they could face similar embarrassment.

Flying the flag: Chechens demonstrate on bullet-ridden Presidential Palace during a rally in Grozny. The building was badly damaged by Russian forces early this year when used as a rebel stronghold Photograph: Reuter

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IN BRIEF

Starvation looms in typhoon's wake

Manila — The Philippines appears to have gone through a "miniature war" with the passage of super-typhoon Angela, which killed more than 370 people and left some areas without food and drinking water, a senior government official said. The spectre of starvation loomed over the affected regions as village heads and rescue workers reported how winds and columns of water had swept away people, livestock, houses and ready-to-harvest crops. *Reuter*

Boost for Gramm's flagging campaign

Washington — Senator Phil Gramm gained some encouragement for his flagging Presidential campaign with a win this weekend in a straw poll of Republicans in Maine, **writes Rupert Cornwell.** Senator Gramm, stuck in single figures in the polls, won 602 votes, almost double his closest rival, Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana. Bob Dole, the Senate majority leader came third, followed by Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania.

Ciller wins vote of confidence

Ankara — Turkey's Prime Minister, Tansu Ciller, won a vote of confidence, bringing a pause to six weeks of political turmoil that will cause an early election next month. Parliament voted 243 to 171 for her coalition government, intended to serve until the poll. *AP*

Nobel Prize winner's nephew snatched

Guatemala City — The 22-month-old nephew of the Guatemalan Nobel Peace Prize winner, Rigoberta Menchu, was kidnapped by two unidentified gunmen who snatched the baby, Juan Carlos Velasquez Menchu, from the arms of her sister Cristina and sped off in a jeep with tinted windows. Ms Menchu said she suspected the motive was political. *Reuter*

Kashmiris want freedom, not autonomy

Srinagar — Kashmiris vowed to boycott next month's state legislative election, saying the government's promise of autonomy is inadequate and they want independence. In the rest of India, opposition politicians criticised the Prime Minister, PV Narasimha Rao, for not consulting them before making the election announcement on Saturday. *AP*

Landmine kills Tajik woman

Dushanbe — A woman was killed when a land mine exploded in a park in Tajikistan's capital. Police said it was apparently planted by radical opposition members to thwart celebrations of the anniversary of Tajikistan's new constitution. *AP*

Villagers in eastern Bicol region carry away a victim killed during flash-floods caused by Typhoon Angela

Advertisement

How to become a proofreader

by Trevor Horwood

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هكذا من الأصل

Commonwealth Conference: Abacha will get most brickbats, but Major can expect censure for defending French nuclear tests

Angry partners put Britain in dock

STEVE CRAWSHAW

The Queen has already arrived, after travelling on a common-or-garden first-class plane ticket for the first time in her life. John Major arrives on Wednesday for talks with New Zealand's Prime Minister, Jim Bolger. Then on Friday the Main Event begins.

The Commonwealth Conference, which is being held in Auckland until next Monday, has a mixture of the good, the bad and the controversial on its agenda. First comes the historic, feel-good part. The conference – the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, known as CHOGM, to rhyme with "flog 'em" — will sound fanfares for Nelson Mandela, who is attending his first summit as South African leader.

The Commonwealth prides itself that it helped play a role in helping South Africa on the path to democracy. There is no mistaking the pride of the Commonwealth secretary-general, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, that South Africa was so quick to rejoin the organisation which the apartheid government had swept out of in a huff. Mr Mandela applied for renewed South African membership only a fortnight after his inauguratioo as President last year.

South Africa's return to the fold is seen as a double victory marking not only the triumph of non-racial democracy but a confirmation of the importance of the Commonwealth itself. South Africa, once the ultimate pariah, looks set to become one of the most important members in the club.

What began as a post-imperial association has become a mutual-support group for democracy and development, where Britain's role is less and less crucial. The Queen is still head of the Commonwealth, a position that she will retain; in some respects, she represents the continuity of the Commonwealth. But Britain is not the moving force that it was, nor even, perhaps, the binding glue. It is unclear whether King Charles III will be the head of the Commonwealth.

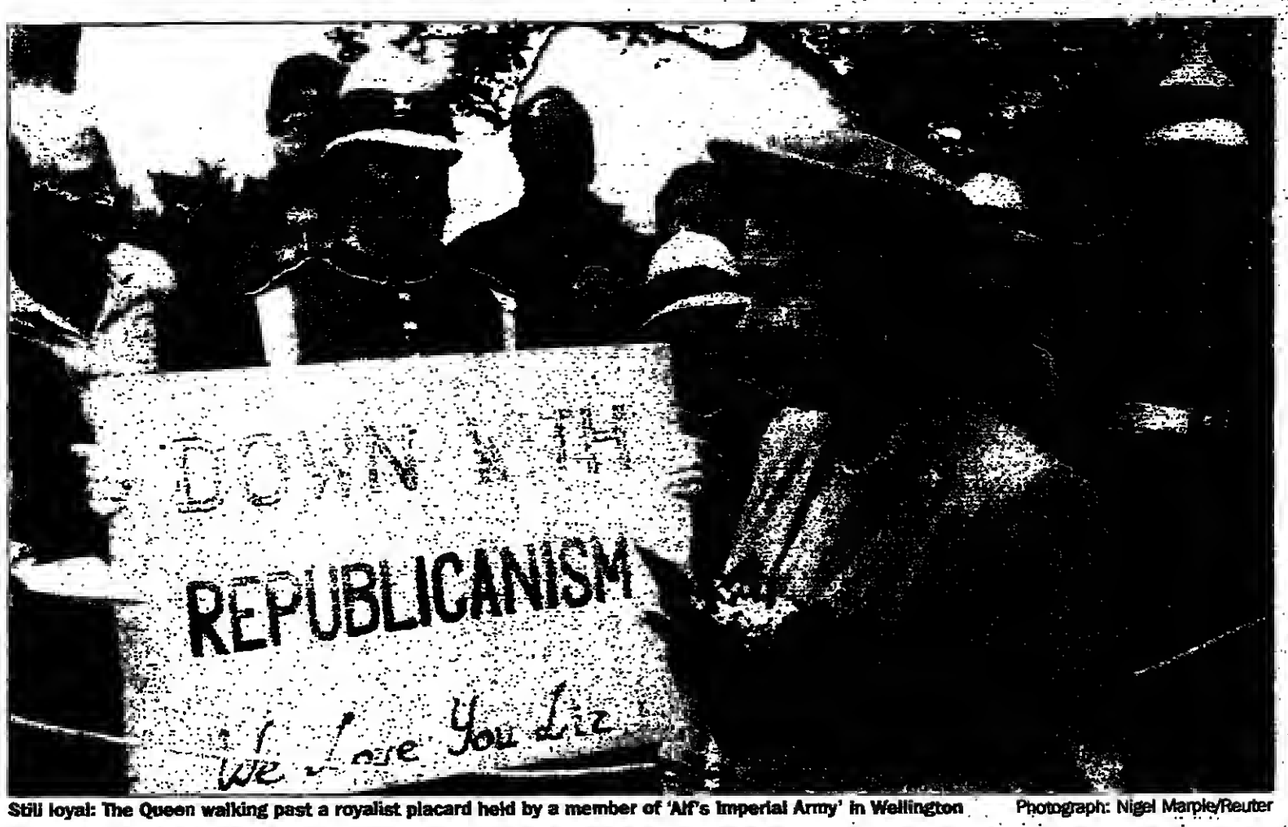
The Secretariat of the Commonwealth is still based in London. But Britain is now just one member among many (52 as of this week). These days, it is as likely to be at odds with the rest of the Commonwealth as it is to be in the mainstream.

This week Britain will spend some time in the dock. London's soft-pedalling on French nuclear testing in the Pacific is unpopular with many member-states.

In Auckland, the demonstrators look set to be out in force. Even in the politer confines of the conference hall, there are likely to be harsh words. The host country, New Zealand, Australia, and the Pacific island states are all indignant at France's defiance of world opinion, and Britain's perceived snuggling up to France is not appreciated.

But the main brickbats will be aimed at General Sani Abacha, Nigeria's military leader, assuming he does not decide to stay at home.

With remarkable timing, General Abacha's courts last week pronounced a death sentence on the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa. Mr Anyaoku, himself a Nigerian, did not hide his anger at the action, which triggered worldwide protests. Nigeria's trampling of human rights will figure prominently in debates this week.



Still loyal: The Queen walking past a royalist placard held by a member of 'Alf's Imperial Army' in Wellington Photograph: Nigel Marple/Reuter

Officials emphasise that the Commonwealth is not a rule-based organisation. The possibility of threatening Nigeria with expulsion is remote. Equally, however, the Harare declaration, which was signed at the Commonwealth conference of 1991, spelt out a commitment to democratic norms. The Harare declaration now serves as a kind of Commonwealth touchstone.

The revolutions that toppled Communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe had the knock-on effect of weakening one-party regimes elsewhere. Africa ceased to be a proxy battleground for the Cold War, where dictators could enjoy being propped up by Moscow or Washington as honoured representatives of "socialism" or "the free world". Now, in Mr Anyaoku's words, there are "only" three military regimes still in place: in Sierra Leone, Gambia and Nigeria. Mr Anyaoku sees one of the aims of the Commonwealth as being to help "the democratic ethic to take root".

Despite the controversies, the Commonwealth can afford to remain upbeat, not least because a queue is forming to join. South Africa's new membership may be the first in a long line. Cameroon's bid to join the Commonwealth was approved last week. Mozambique's ties with the Commonwealth are closer than before, and there are reports that the former Portuguese colony might join.

Mr Anyaoku says the Commonwealth can still expand, though its "special qualities" must remain. Certainly, the Commonwealth need have no fear of being declared redundant, not while its members still see it as an anchor of stability in an unstable world.

Pressure for arms ban on Nigeria

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY
Defence Correspondent

As Nigeria's human-rights record tops the bill at the Commonwealth conference in Auckland, pressure is growing for a complete embargo on European arms exports to the country. Britain and the EU have condemned the military dictatorship of General Sani Abacha, who took power in 1993, but have continued to license arms exports.

On 29 September the European Commissioner in charge of African affairs said the Commission was concerned that "existing measures may not be applied with sufficient rigour and therefore has recently proposed that the December 1993 measures be incorporated into a legally binding common position on Nigeria".

On 12 October the European Parliament called for "the ending of arms sales to Nigeria in order to increase pressure on the Nigerian regime to restore the democratic process". Peter Truscott, vice-president of the European Parliament's security and development committee, and the World Development Movement, a London-based pressure group, had demanded the embargo. In a report published today, the WDM presents evidence that Britain and other European governments have continued to export arms in contravention to European criteria, which state that "the respect of human rights in the final country of destination" must be considered in arms exports.

In1993 the European Council of Ministers decided to consider arms sales to Nigeria on a case-by-case basis, but many have got through.

The report points out that European states are still allowed to sell arms to the Nigerian police, which has suppressed pro-democracy demonstrations. In June the Government issued licences for CS gas and rubber bullets to be exported. Last year the Government issued 30 licences for non-lethal equipment, which could include components for tanks and missiles. About 20 licences were granted for goods on the "Military List", including machine-guns, bombs, missiles and mines.

In the last two years, France has sold Nigeria armoured reconnaissance vehicles and Austria has sold 300 armoured troop carriers. Nigeria has received military trucks from Germany, artillery from Italy and howitzers from Sweden. Non-EU countries have also sold arms. Mr Truscott said: "We must exert maximum pressure to secure a total ban on arms sales to the regime, which is flouting human rights on a massive scale."

Third World fears future without Lomé

EU reluctantly renews aid pact with ex-colonies, writes **Katherine Butler**

Port Louis, Mauritius — When the European Commission discovered that about 30 of its civil servants were due to travel to Mauritius for Saturday's signing of a new European Union trade and aid pact with 70 of the world's poorest countries, it ordered an inquiry.

Asked why it was essential for them to make the trip, most said they believed it was important to show solidarity with the developing world.

Just as this explanation failed to convince the higher-ups in the Commission – only seven officials made the trip – Europe is failing to convince its former colonies in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) that it is committed to solidarity with their struggle against poverty.

The Lomé Convention was renewed for five years on Saturday amid fears that with Europe's changing strategic interests, the special relationship will not survive beyond 2000.

Designed originally as a life-support mechanism for the former colonies of Britain, France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Portugal, the agreement offers more than £12bn in aid over the next five years. More importantly, it provides better trade terms than those offered to other Third World exporters in Asia or Latin America.

However, as guilt for the colonial past subsides and the EU's preoccupation with its commitments in Central and Eastern Europe increases, the developing countries fear they could be facing a future without Lomé.

Revising the pact took 15 months; the negotiations were overshadowed by a bitter squabble among EU countries over the size of their contributions to the aid budget. Britain wanted to slash its donation by 30 per cent.

The new aid deal, agreed only after Germany secured backing for a multi-billion-pound cash package for Eastern Europe, offers the ACP states no increase in real terms on the previous agreement.

To compensate, EU officials insist that new trade provisions will make it easier for ACP exports to penetrate European markets. But products which might pose a competitive threat, such as olives, lemons and wine, are still subject to high tariffs. "We talk about opening markets, but as soon as it comes to anything sensitive, forget it," one EU diplomat admitted.

Sectors such as textiles, where Mauritius might pose the faintest threat to EU garment-makers, are excluded from other trade concessions in the new agreement. Yet the island nation, which exports hundreds of thousands of tons of textiles and sugar to Europe each year, believes that trade is more important than aid to all but the poorest countries.

Jugnauth: Ex-imperialists are rapidly losing their interest

The Mauritian Prime Minister, Aneerood Jugnauth, says the bruising round of negotiations was an eye-opener. The end of the Cold War and the loss of any strategic stake in Africa, he said, explains Europe's "fast fading" interest in the relationship. "We are witnessing a growing movement towards the marginalisation of the South as the focus of the European Union's geopolitical interests seems to be increasingly directed towards other regions of the world."

The British Government says its priority is to maintain bilateral relationships in the developing world rather than bolster a Brussels-managed agreement which is inefficient, badly administered and unworkable.

Brussels officials, too, are prepared to concede that Lomé as a development instrument is running out of steam and that thoughts should be turning to a new model.

Changes in world-trade rules will ultimately render the agreement's trade preferences illegal. The Lomé Convention enjoys a waiver from the rules of Gatt but beyond the year 2000 that may not be renewed by the World Trade Organisation. "Geopolitically and economically so many things have changed," said Joao de Deus Pinheiro, EU commissioner for relations with the ACP. "We must look at the convention with new glasses."

Karadzic praises US role in Bosnia talks

Belgrade (Reuter) — The Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, said he believed Yugoslav peace talks in Dayton, Ohio would succeed, and welcomed the active role played by the United States.

In unusually conciliatory remarks made on Serbian radio, Mr Karadzic said the US-brokered conference should result in "the final establishment of peace in Bosnia". The Dayton negotiations were important because "they were initiated by the American side, which for the first time accepted and recognised the existence of the Serbian entity in Bosnia and the fact that Bosnia cannot survive as a unitary state".

Serbia's President, Slobodan Milosevic, is negotiating on behalf of the Bosnian Serbs, who lost large slices of territory to a Bosnian-Croatian offensive this summer. The US talks, said Mr Karadzic, should involve the return of part of this territory.

Mr Milosevic, the Bosnian President, Alija Izetbegovic, and Franjo Tudjman of Croatia are studying a series of documents that international mediators hope will form the basis of a peace accord.

Mr Karadzic said previous peace conferences on ex-Yugoslavia had failed because they lacked US support. Asked why he had not gone to Dayton himself, he said, "It was not important who took part ... We all think the same". Mr Karadzic has been indicted for war crimes by the international tribunal at the Hague and is liable to arrest if he leaves the country.

Yesterday mediators were to hold more talks with rebel Serbs in Croatia's Eastern Slavonia region. A first effort by the US ambassador to Croatia, Peter Galbraith, and the UN envoy, Thorvald Stoltenberg, to get the Serb and Croat sides together fell apart on Saturday when the Serb side failed to turn up.

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1. To enter our Liberty prize draw, collect 5 differently numbered tokens (including one from the Independent on Sunday) and send with a completed entry form to: Independent/Liberty Prize Draw, PO Box 250, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL7 1TU. The closing date is 27 November 1995, we will print an entry form on Saturday 11 November.
2. For previously published tokens or an entry form send an SAE to: Independent/Liberty, PO Box 92, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL7 1BT. State the amount of tokens you require (only 4 per application). Please mark clearly on your envelope: TOKEN REQUEST or ENTRY FORM. If you require both, please send separate SAE's. Requests must be received by first post 20 November 1995.
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9. There is no cash alternative.
10. The Editor's decision is final.

INDEPENDENT TOKEN 2

LIBERTY

هكذا من الاصل

obituaries / gazette

Yitzhak Rabin

A life in step with the struggle for, and establishment, of a Jewish state in the biblical homeland: Rabin with President Bill Clinton and the PLO leader Yasser Arafat after signing the peace accord, at the White House, 1993;and addressing the Knesset in 1992

Yitzhak Rabin was the least predictable of peacemakers, an old soldier with an instinctive distrust of the kind of bright young intellectuals who contrived the Oslo breakthrough with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. He visibly cringed when President Bill Clinton coaxed him to shake hands with Yasser Arafat on the White House lawn in September1993.

As Prime Minister of Israel for the first time from 1974 to 1977, Rabin could hardly steel himself to utter the word "Palestinian". He and his Defence Minister in that administration, Shimon Peres, connived, however reluctantly, at the establishment of the first Jewish settlements planted among Arab towns and villages on the spine of Palestine. As Defence Minister in the 1984-90 national-unity Government, Rabin ordered his troops to break the Intifada uprising "with might, power and beatings".

Yet on the night of his death at the hands of a lone Israeli gunman, Rabin was singing "Shir Hashalom", the Hebrew hymn of peace, with 100,000 supporters of Peace Now. It was, Peres said afterwards, probably the first time in his life that the croaky-voiced Rabin had sung in public.

His farewell message had a ring of Martin Luther King's "I have a dream". His Government, he said, had decided to give peace a chance. "I was a military man for 27 years. I waged war as long as there was no chance for peace. I believe there is now a chance for peace, a great chance, and we must make the most of it."

What wrought the transformation was the realisation that Israel could not batter the children and mothers of the Intifada into submission, without compromising its own humanity and alienating the civilised world with which Israel identified itself.

As early as the 1988 election campaign, Rabin and Peres argued that Israel could not go on ruling a large and hostile Arab minority if it wanted to remain a Jewish and a democratic state. The only alternative was separation, a line on the ground with Israelis on one side and Palestinians on the other (though to the last Rabin refused to acknowledge that his policy might spawn a Palestinian state).

The 1988 electoral stalemate denied the two Labour leaders an opportunity to put "territory for peace" to the test. But after their narrow victory in June 1992, Peres, as Foreign Minister under Rabin, convinced himself and his chief that Arafat was ready for a symmetrical compromise. Isolated and impoverished by the historic miscalculation of siding with Saddam Hussein in the 1991 Gulf war, the leader of the PLO had become a partner for peace.

It was Peres, always the more imaginative and restless of the two, who selected and backed the freelance diplomats for the Oslo back channel. But without Rabin, checking every detail, reining in their enthusiasm, a deal would never have gelled. And without Rabin, elected on a platform of "peace with security", the Israeli public would oot have acquiesced.

Despite their history of bitter personal rivalry, Rabin and Peres were an extraordinary team. In their seventies, they recognised that a solution to a century-old conflict between Jew and Arab was attainable. This was their own last chance, and they were not going let mutual recrimination get in the way. Nor would they be deflected by the enemies of peace, Arab or Jewish. After every Islamic suicide bombing, a grim-faced Rabin announced to the television cameras that the negotiations would continue. Echoing a celebrated phrase of Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, he said he would "fight the terrorists as if there were no peace process, and fight for peace as if there were no terrorism".

Rabin is mobbed by supporters after victory in the Six Day War, 1967

Rabin was equally stubborn in defying a campaign of unprecedented vilification by the Israeli right and its paymasters abroad. They branded him a "traitor" and an alcoholic, portrayed him in Nazi uniform or Arafat *kefiyeh* head-dress. To their enduring shame, leaders of the parliamentary opposition were slow to disown these excesses. Even when his Knesset majority was reduced last month to a single mercenary MP, Rabin bulldozed on. "A majority of one is still a majority," he insisted.

Foreign critics accused Rabin of dictating a humiliating peace to a vulnerable Arafat. But for most Israelis, Israel too was paying a price – not just in territory, but in personal security. By finely calculating when to accelerate the peace process and when to slow it down (by, for instance, closing the old Green Line border to workers from the West Bank and Gaza Strip), Rabin stopped the pragmatic centre of Israeli public opinion from joining the settler ideologues at the barricades.

His tenacity won Israel a peace treaty with Jordan to match that Menachem Begin signed with Egypt in 1979. It banished the kind of isolation that had dogged Israel in international forums for 47 years. Israeli commentators were quick to notice that when Rabin addressed the jubilee General Assembly of the United Nations last month, no Arab or Third World delegation walked out (the Syrians and the Libyans were not there to start with).

Yitzhak Rabin was born in Jerusalem in 1922. His life and career marched step-by-step with the struggle for, and consolidation of, a Jewish state in the biblical homeland. His father, Nehemia, a working-class Ukrainian Jew who had emigrated to the United States, arrived in Palestine in 1918 as a volunteer for the Jewish Legion, fighting to help the allies oust Turkey from the Levant. His Russian-born mother, Rosa, the daughter of an Orthodox rabbi, immigrated with a Zionist uncle.

In the best pioneering tradition, Rabin studied at an agricultural school, then joined the Palmach, the elite professionals of the Haganah Jewish defence force, in the struggle for independence. During the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, he commanded a battalion that kept open the lifeline between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

He made a career in the army, reaching his peak as chief of the general staff in Israel's resoundingly victorious Six-Day War in 1967. Rabin collapsed with nervous exhaustion (excused at the time as nicotine poisoning) on the eve of war, but after two days' rest he returned to his post. Moshe Dayan, the flamboyant Defence Minister, seized the international limelight, but the more taciturn Rabin was credited with the planning and control that expanded Israel's borders to the Suez Canal, the Jordan river and the Golan Heights.

After retiring from the military at the end of 1967, Rabin was appointed ambassador to Washington. He scorned the frivolities of the cocktail circuit, but established a highly productive working relationship with the Nixon Administration.

Rabin returned to Israel in 1973 and ran for election on the Labour ticket in the elections of December that year. Israelis welcomed him as a leader with a record of success, a man who was untainted by the almost disastrous errors that exposed Israel to invasion in the Yom Kippur War. In April 1974, he defeated Shimon Peres in their first contest for the party leadership, after Golda Meir had stepped down.

Despite his initial popularity, Rabin had a disappointing first term as Prime Minister. He had difficulty adjusting to the demands of political life. He found the Knesset, Israel's parliament, a bore and showed it. He lacked the patience to cultivate party allies. He failed to stem a flood of corruption scandals that started under previous leaders, but fed escalating disenchantment with his party, which had ruled since independence.

On the eve of the 1977 general election, Rabin was forced to resign after an Israeli correspondent in Washington unearthed an illegal foreign currency account in the name of Rabin's wife, Leah, who survives him with their two children. Labour lost to Menachem Begin's Likud, which prompted a West Bank settlement boom designed to prevent a repartition. The present Government is finally trying to unravel this.

But Rabin stayed in politics and the Knesset, a restless subordinate to Shimon Peres, whom he accused in an autobiography, *The Rabin Memoirs* (1979), of undermining him when he was Prime Minister. None the less, the pair remained locked together like Siamese twins through three successful attempts to regain power.

In 1992, the party concluded that Peres could never win and turned again to Rabin. It worked, but by a dizzyingly precarious margin. The peace process – and the Nobel Peace Prize that it brought to Rabin, Arafat and Peres – was hardly a probable outcome. In the spirit of the Palmach and the Israeli Defence Forces, Rabin insisted on leading from the front. In a Tel Aviv square on Saturday night, he paid for it with his life.

Eric Silver

Yitzhak Rabin, army officer, politician: born Jerusalem March 1922; Commander Palmach Brigade 1943-45; Commander-in-Chief, Northern Command, Israeli Defence Forces 1956-59, Head of Manpower Branch 1959-60, Deputy Chief of Staff and Head of the General Staff Branch 1960-64, Chief of Staff 1964-68; Israeli Ambassador to the United States 1968-73; Chairman of Labour Party 1974-77; Member of Knesset 1974-95, Minister of Labour 1974, Minister of Communications 1974-75, Prime Minister 1974-77, Minister of Defence 1984-90, Prime Minister and Minister of Defence 1992-95; married 1948 Leah Schlossberg (one son, one daughter); died Tel Aviv 4 November 1995.

Marti Caine

Fame was not the initial spur for Marti Caine. An unpaid bill of £150 – her mother's funeral expenses – was what pushed the 19-year-old Lynne Stringer (as she was then called) into auditioning for Ernest "Honest" Johns at the Chapeltown Working Men's Club outside Sheffield.

Up until then, she was just another starry-eyed wannabe, already married with two babies, an ex-beauty queen, stuck on a council estate, with little hope of fulfilling any dreams for a better life. Her mother had a sad history of alcoholism and drug abuse since losing her husband, Lynne's father, from cancer.

It was a Jekyll and Hyde childhood of oppressive cosseting one minute, covert sexual abuse (by her paternal grandfather) the next. Small wonder she bolted at 17, marrying the butcher's boy, also 17.

That fateful audition, prompted by debt, fuelled by brandy, consisted of two songs, "Puppet on a String" and "Summertime", intended to demonstrate her versatility. Her voice was trembling so much, Marti Caine later recalled, that she sounded like Edith Piaf with Parkinson's disease.

Professionally she wasn't Marti Caine then, or even Lynne Stringer. She was Sunny Smith for all of three weeks, followed by a spell as Zoe Bond. Unhappy with both, she scoured a gardening book for inspiration. Her husband Malcolm Stringer tinkered with tomato cane and came up with Marta Cane. The club she was playing misheard and billed her as Marti Caine.

Singing, she soon realised, came a lot less naturally to her than being funny. Glamorous young women in figure-hugging mini-dresses did not do stand-up comedy in working men's clubs in the 1960s and Caine's novelty value served her well. She walked a tightrope between challenging the male ego, not always the easiest option amid a sea of beer-swilling chauvinists, and affirming preconceptions. She developed a talent for dispatching hecklers with withering one-liners.

By the 1970s she had acquired an agent, John Peller, who persuaded her in 1974 to enter ITV's talent show *New Faces*. To her astonishment, she emerged the winner a year later, beating Lenny Henry and Victoria Wood.

There followed 10 years of high-profile, top-rating television stardom, international cabaret work and the title role in Fanny Brice in *Funny Girl* at the Crucible, Sheffield, her hometown. She described the director, Clare Venables, as her Svengali. In partnership with her former agent John Peller and the entrepreneur Sharon Somerset, she also established five health clubs in the north of England. They were her insurance policy if show business ever gave her up.

Her second marriage, to the theatre director Kenneth Ives in 1984, took her into classier realms. A friend of his, the agent Laurence Evans, who succeeded Peller, put Caine in the same brick-dropping league as another client of his, Sir John Gielgud. Famous among these party *faux pas* was Caine's asking Peter Hall what he did for a living, and on being introduced to a frail yet feisty old man, inquiring of him "Larry who?" only to be told, rather sharply, "Olivier, dear".

The years of popular acclaim and serious money were not enough to eradicate her inner doubt and insecurity. Like anyone who re-invents themselves, she had no way of escaping the person she once was. She still saw herself as an ugly girl with long legs and a nose job. Marti was loud, brassy and egotistical, she told one journalist, while Lynne had no ego and enjoyed doing the housework.

Professionally her aim was always to look drop-dead glamorous whatever discomfort she might have to suffer in the process. She counted dressmakers, hairdressers and beauticians among her closest friends.

Nothing became Marti Caine's life like the leaving of it. Notice was served as long ago as 1988 that her days were numbered. The long and painful fight for survival was charted eagerly by the tabloids, Caine seldom refusing an interview and, when interviewed, never ducking a question.

A book she wrote in 1990, *A Coward's Chronicles*, was a revelation, inter-weaving poignant snatches of autobiography with a sometimes tortuous, sometimes hilarious account of her treatment. Not everyone under sentence of death wants to know every medical detail. Caine demanded the truth at every turn. By knowing everything, she said, she felt better fitted to use her mind to influence her body.

That she had written so honest and accomplished a book possibly came as no surprise to Marti Caine's intimates, but it revealed a hitherto unseen facet to the viewing masses. For once the publisher's blurb was true: hers was indeed a rare talent. She called it *A Coward's Chronicles* to counteract the tabloid image of her as this paragon of courage and defiance. You fight for dear life, she said, because you are too cowardly to embrace death. She maintained a punishing work schedule up to a few weeks ago when a relapse forced her to pull out of a Christmas pantomime commitment in Basingstoke, playing the Red Queen in *Snow White*.

Only her nearest and dearest know how Lynne coped with it all, but the people's view of Marti Caine's last exit was that she conducted herself with dignity, humility and good humour. A coward she wasn't.

Nick Smurthwaite

Lynne Denise Shepherd (Marti Caine), entertainer: born Sheffield 26 January 1945; married 1962 Malcolm Stringer (two sons; marriage dissolved 1979); 1984 Kenneth Ives; died Henley-on-Thames 4 November 1995.

Caine: demanded the truth

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

THOMAS: On 31 October 1995, Jorwerth Lewis, late of Bangalore, husband of Jean, father of Antony, Huw and Bronwen. Beloved of all who knew him. Thanksgiving service, Thursday 9 November at 3pm at St Mary's Church, Bucknell, South Shropshire. Family flowers only.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER announcements must be submitted in writing and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a telephone number.

Birthdays

Lord Avonside, former Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 81; Dr James Barber, Master, Hatfield College, Durham, 64; Professor Lord Bauer, economist, 80; Mr James Bowman, operatic counter-tenor, 54; Mr Frank Carson, comedian, 69; Mr Nigel Havers, actor, 46; Mr Bernat Klein, designer, former chairman of Bernat Klein Ltd, 73; Mr Leonard Miall, broadcasting historian, 81; Mr David Montgomery, chief executive, Mirror Group Newspapers, 47; Admiral Sir Anthony Morton, King of Arms, Order of the British Empire, 72; Mr David Moss, High Commissioner to Malaysia, 57; Mr Mike Nichols, film and theatre director, 64; Mr P.J. Proby, rock singer, 57; Lt-Gen Sir David Ramsbotham, former Adjutant General, 61; Professor Sir Martin Roth, psychiatrist, 78; Mr Ron Saunders, football manager, 63; Sir Oliver Scott Bt, radiobiologist, 73; Maj-Gen James Scott Elliott, former Lieutenant of the County of Dumfries, 93; Sir George Sinclair, former MP, 83; Mr Malcolm Thyne, Headmaster, Fettes College, 53.

Anniversaries

Births: Colley Cibber, actor and playwright, 1671; Adolphe (Antoine-Joseph) Sax, inventor of the saxophone, 1814. **Deaths:** John Murray (McMurray), publisher, 1793; Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, composer, 1893. **On this day:** Abraham Lincoln was elected as 16th US president, 1860.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess of Wales, Patron, Help the Aged, presents the 1995 Help the Aged Hannah Golden Awards at the London Hilton, London W1. **Princess Margaret** attends a reception and luncheon for the Northumbria Branch of the British Red Cross Society to celebrate the conclusion of the Society's 125th birthday year, at Blagdon Hall, Stamfordham, Newcastle upon Tyne. **The Duke of Gloucester** opens an exhibition by Ukrainian Artists at Cork Street Gallery, London W1. **The Duchess of Kent**, Patron, Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, attends the Christmas Market Preview, Royal Horticultural New Hall, London SW1. **Princess Alexandra** attends the Annual Gala Evening of the American Associates of the Royal Academy Trust in the Rainbow Room, Rockefeller Centre, New York.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Grenadier Guards

CASE SUMMARIES

6 November 1995

The following notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the All England Law Reports.

Compensation order

Gamage v DPP; QBD (DC) (Rose LJ, Wright J); 16 Oct 1995

A compensation order made in favour of two individuals and 12 hotels for £2,428.05 to be paid at the rate of £5 per week in respect of offences of deception was excessive. A compensation order stretching over nine and a half years was not one at which a reasonable court could arrive since there was no certainty that the companies in whose favour the compensation order had been made would still be trading at the end of the period, and the administrative burden of distributing the weekly amount between so many claimants made the order wrong in principle.

Nigel J Daley (Turners, Bournemouth) for the applicant.

Evidence

R v Gilfoyle; CA (Crim Div) (Beldam LJ, Scott Baker, Hidden JJ); 20 Oct 1995

The Court of Appeal has power under s 23(1) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 not only to receive admissible evidence which would afford a ground for allowing an appeal, but has a wider discretion if it thinks it necessary or expedient in the interests of justice to order any witness to attend for examination and to be examined before the court, whether or not he testified at the trial. Section 23 confers on the court a discretion confined only by the requirement that the court must be satisfied that it is necessary or expedient in the interests of justice to require the evidence to be given. The Court of Appeal therefore had power, of its own initiative, to receive evidence if relevant and admissible, which had been ruled as inadmissible hearsay at the trial.

Michael Mansfield QC and James H. Gregory (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for the appellant; Rodney Klevan QC and Brian Lewis (CPS) for the Crown.

Rates

Kingston-upon-Thames Royal Borough Council v Marlow; QBD (DC) (Simon Brown LJ, Scott Baker J); 23 Oct 1995

A tenant was not liable for non-domestic rates where he had relinquished possession of office premises in response to forfeiture proceedings issued by the landlord. Although service of proceedings for forfeiture did not determine the lease, the vacating of premises by a tenant would indicate acceptance of termination of the lease, whereupon the landlord would become liable for rates.

Brian Langstaff QC and Anthony Bradley (Council Solicitor) for the council; Graham Clarke (Marlows, Kingston-upon-Thames) for the defendant.

Revenue

Mellish (Inspector of Taxes) v BMI and conjoined appeals; HL (Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead and Lord Steyn); 12 Oct 1995

Chattels fixed to and becoming part of the land of the lessee were not capable of being tax-exempt. A similar claim relating to chattels not fixed to the land would be allowed; and no distinction was to be made if the chattel was a fixture. The Finance Act 1971, s 44(1) is now the Capital Allowances Act 1990, s 24(1) and the Finance Act 1985, Sch 17, para 3 is now the Capital Allowances Act 1990, s 53(1).

James Munby QC and Timothy Brennan (Inland Revenue Solicitor) for the Crown; Graham Aaronson QC, Paul Morgan QC and Stephen Jordan (Denton Hall) for the taxpayers.

Correction: In R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, ex p O'Dhuibhir (*Independent*, 24 October 1995), Dinah Rose also appeared for the Home Secretary.

هكذا من الأصل

As MPs debate Nolan today, lobbyists are rushing to recruit Labour's brightest brains, say **Chris Blackhurst** and **Nicholas Timmins**

Everybody wants to know Tony Blair

Plenty will be said in the House of Commons about the lobbying industry later today. As MPs debate Nolan and the disclosure of their outside earnings, Labour backbenchers will not resist having a go at Tories' links with the likes of Ian Greer, GJW, Westminster Strategy, Westminster Communications and the other specialist parliamentary consultancies.

For many Labour MPs, lobbying is a dirty word. That, at least, is the public face. In truth, the party and the lobbyists are moving closer and closer together as the election nears. Whereas once Labour would have been ignored, now lobbyists bang on to the party's every word.

The annual conference this year in Brighton was awash with representatives from all the leading lobbying firms. Lowe Bell, home of Sir Tim Bell, once Margaret Thatcher's image-maker, broke with years of tradition and even held a reception there: some of the biggest names in business, such as Lloyd's of London, NatWest and Littlewoods, were happy to sponsor events on the Labour fringe. Midland Bank sponsored a crèche, while Sainsbury's and British Airways held receptions.

MPs, particularly post-Nolan, may be sensitive about linking up with lobbyists, but many party workers and researchers have no such qualms. They see lobbying and everything that it entails as a new career opportunity, seeking out jobs doing everything from monitoring events at Westminster and Brussels to briefing clients on forthcoming legislation and effecting introductions with ministers and officials. Prior to the 1992 election there were only two or three lobbyists who had recently worked for Labour – most notably Mike Craven, now managing director of Market Access, who had worked in John Prescott's office, and Tony Page at GJW, who had worked for John Cunningham. Labour's defeat in 1992 brought no rush to snap up ex-Kinnock advisers. Neil Stewart, who with Charles Clarke was one of Kinnock's key fixers, says the atmosphere was "distinctly hostile". He applied for jobs for which he believes he was plainly qualified and found himself without even an interview.

The change began with John Smith's CBI speech in September 1992 which began the rapprochement with business that the Kinnock era never really achieved.

Mike Lee, a well respected adviser to David Blunkett for almost five years, and Julian Eccles, a key campaign co-ordinator in Walworth Road, moved across in 1993 to Westminster Strategy and Hill and Knowlton, respectively, two of the key players.

Meanwhile, outside the world of lobbying, the management consultants Booz Allen & Hamilton took on Wendy Alexander, one of Labour's brightest researchers in Scotland, with Andersen Consulting making the most dramatic capture by employing Patricia Hewitt, a key figure from the Kinnock era, who went to the company from the IPPR, the left-of-centre think-tank set up to help Labour break the mould of outdated policies. Margaret Hodge worked briefly for Price Waterhouse after she ceased to be leader of Islington council and before she became an MP.

The interest of management consultants in people with an inside knowledge of Labour has been followed over the past 18 months by the trickle of researchers and other Labour Party staff moving to lobbying firms turning almost into a torrent, though the quality of the people now employed by more than a dozen lobbying firms varies enormously.

For Labour workers, many of whom have existed for years on a relative pittance, the chance to earn a decent salary is difficult to resist. For many of them, as well, there is the realisation that come the election their chances of remaining near the action are diminishing. For as soon as the election is over, assuming that Labour wins, civil servants will then move in and only a handful of very senior people will be made special advisers in the new government.

"Some of the lobbying firms have bought themselves a pretty hum deal," one close observer of the scene said. "Recruiting former researchers to some of Labour's more obscure frontbenchers or MPs is hardly going to give their clients Gordon Brown's ear, however much it might make it appear that they have good Labour contacts."

Some, however, have been significant recruits for the lobbyists – notably Neal Lawson at Lowe Bell, who previously worked for Gordon Brown, Colin Byrne at Shandwick, who was Peter Mandelson's key lieutenant in the campaigns and communications department of Walworth Road, and David Gardner, at the Public Policy Unit, architect of the highly successful outcome Labour achieved from the Boundary Commission review.

Other notable names who have gone into lobbying are Rex Osborn, political intelligence officer at Walworth Road, Paul Wheeler, from Labour's election team, and Murray Elder, who was John Smith's chief of staff.

Mike Craven, of Market Access, says the growth is entirely market-driven. "Business now thinks Labour may well form the next government. They want to know Labour's views, they want to know the personalities and they want to know how a Labour government may affect their business.

"It is sound business sense – and the level of interest is far higher than before the last election."

Charles Miller, of Public Policy Unit, sums up the mood: "Everyone in town wants an assessment of Labour policy and its implications. Before the 1992 election, even when Labour was leading in the polls, it was very hard to interest business in Labour. Now they want to know what Labour is going to do to us, what it will cost us, what we should be thinking about. They are far better prepared for a Labour government than they ever were in 1992."

Business, said Mr Miller, no longer wants "to throttle Labour, but understand Labour." Lobbyists' wooing of the party, said Mr Miller, "has been pretty feverish for about a year. People we work for are realising it is better to work with a policy in gestation than to wait until it has gone through."

Lobbying consultancies are keener to get their political spread more balanced between left and right. "No one wants to be left holding the wrong baby," said Mr Miller.

Colin Byrne argues that what has been acquired from the more able recruits is not only Labour contacts, but also wider skills. "Where could you learn more about relaunches, crisis management and communication than working alongside Peter Mandelson in the Labour Party?" he says.

"I occasionally say to clients: 'you think you've got problems; you should have seen Labour in the period after the 1983 election'."

There is little sign, however, that the increase in lobbying in Labour's direction is resulting in Labour MPs taking or being offered paid consultancies. Mike Craven believes they will not take them. "It is culturally frowned on, anyway, in the Labour Party," he says. "One or two have done it in the past. But it has never been regarded as the right thing to do, and at the moment it is going the other way, with Labour trying to redefine its relationship with the unions so that they sponsor the local party, not the individual MP."

In the post-Nolan atmosphere – with Shandwick, for example, deciding to part with David Mellor, its only paid parliamentary adviser – recruitment of Labour MPs is even less likely. "If a company offers a nice sleazy consultancy to a backbencher, the press get on to it; then the company suffers as well as the MP," claims one public affairs consultant.

Who's who on the lobby circuit

Lobby group	Ex-Labour employee	... worked for:
Market Access	Mike Craven Ian Kennedy Amanda Francis	John Prescott George Foulkes, Labour frontbencher Mo Mowlam
Westminster	Mike Lee	David Blunkett
Strategy	Rex Osborn	was chief political intelligence officer, Walworth Road, Labour headquarters
Shandwick	Colin Byrne	Labour chief press officer and deputy to Peter Mandelson when he was campaigns and communications director
Westminster Communications	Murray Elder	John Smith
Lowe Bell	Neal Lawson Tim Fallon	Gordon Brown Joan Walley, former transport spokesperson
GJW	Tony Page David Wilson Elizabeth Davies Stephanie Ayres	Jack Cunningham Jack Cunningham David Blunkett Andrew Faulds, backbencher
Ian Greer	Robbie MacDuff	Allan Roberts, former environment spokesman
Public Policy Unit	David Gardner Paul Wheeler	Labour local government and boundary commission specialist Election co-ordinator Walworth Road
Connect	Gill Morris	Oonagh MacDonald, former frontbencher
GPC	Anne Norris	Walworth Road
Burston Marsteller	Philip Cole	Assistant London regional organiser
Hill and Knowlton	Julian Eccles	Campaign co-ordinator and assistant to party general secretary, Walworth Road
Granfield	Phil Kelly	Ex-editor of *Tribune* and former adviser to Michael Meacher
APCO	Stephen King	Labour agriculture researcher
Waterfront Partnership	Michael MacDonald	Policy unit, Walworth Road
Politics International	Jeanette Gould	Kevin Barron and John Smith

Tim Bell, LOWE BELL

Murray Elder, WESTMINSTER COMMUNICATONS

John Prescott and Mo Mowlam: their former advisers have joined the lobbyists

Labour talks to business

Labour's contacts with business and industry, and their desire to hear and influence Labour policy, are more extensive than ever before.

At the immediate policy level, Labour has consulted much more widely than in the past before formulating policy. The information superhighway document produced by Chris Smith, for example, followed a "policy forum" in which Labour frontbenchers took evidence from companies, almost in the style of a Commons select committee, from British Telecom and Mercury to the cable operators and others.

Frontbenchers regularly meet business leaders through the Industry Forum – an arm's-length body set up in 1993 in Robin Cook's day as trade and industry spokesman. It has regular meetings across sectors – pharmaceuticals or telecoms, for example – and across issues, such as small business or competition policy.

About 150 companies and trade associations contribute between £500 and £1,000, either as active members or more passive subscribers, to an information service. Some 30 are happy to be named, including Thorn/EMI, BAA, ICL, Merck, Sharpe & Dohme and Tesco, and they include past Tory party contributors such as McAlpine.

Others, however, do not want their names released. "Some are still very sensitive about it, and I think that's a pretty awful reflection on the current government", says Gerald Frankel, the businessman who chairs the forum. "It doesn't like people talking to the opposition party." With potential government contracts at stake, "some are very nervous about it being known that they are having a dialogue with the Opposition. This is a very unhealthy development that I've watched take place in the past 10 years or so".

Executives, however, have attended in steadily increasing numbers the business seminars that the Fabian Society has run with Labour frontbench spokesmen; while Neil Stewart, a former Kinnock aide, has specialised in heavily subscribed conferences for business and the public sector, which attract executives to hear and attempt to influence Labour's view of the world.

Last week the business breakfast that Gordon Brown held at the Institute for Public Policy Research drew an audience that included the chairman, chief executive or managing director from a string of blue chip companies, including Pearson, Reckitt & Colman, the Prudential, Lehman Brothers, Lucas, Unilever and IBM.

The IPPR itself has seen its corporate sponsorship rise sharply over the past year, with companies from the telecoms industry, the media, banking, the pharmaceutical industry and other sectors sponsoring its work directly or contributing to its core funding.

Stands for next year's party conference are already sold out, after a year which saw the highest proportion ever taken by corporate clients.

... and business talks back

Robin Gray, from the Public Policy Unit, one of the leading lobbying firms, did not beat about the bush when he spoke at a private conference last month. Shadow frontbench spokesmen were already "run ragged" by invitations from lobbyists and their clients. Their diaries were virtually full. But if the audience of representatives from some of Britain's biggest companies, including British Aerospace and Cable & Wireless, wanted to get their messages across before the next election, now was the time to write.

In the office of Margaret Beckett, Labour's new trade and industry spokesperson, they well know what Mr Gray was talking about. "She has a tray-full of invitations," said one of her staff, adding that it was growing daily, as companies wanted to talk to her about Labour's forthcoming trade and industry policy document.

Michael Meacher's office is similarly bombarded. "Because industry thinks Labour is set to win, it is pressing hard to lobby shadow ministers," said Mr Meacher's assistant.

"If I write to 25 organisations, I will receive phone calls the following day from 23," said Mr Meacher's aide. "That would not have happened a few years ago."

Likewise, if a Shadow spokesperson makes a speech, he or she can expect to have requests for copies almost immediately from three or four lobbying organisations. Again, that was not the case in the run up to the 1992 election.

Where once there was silence, now there is two-way dialogue. As the prospect of government looms, Labour and lobbying are not such dirty words after all.

Diary

RUTH DUDLEY EDWARDS

I was somewhat aggrieved, at first, to read that Keith Waterhouse and his pals had decided to keep the relaunch dinner of The Useless Information Society stag – on the grounds that women have no use for facts that are of not the slightest value to anybody.

"Dammit," I cried. "Am I not a woman? And do I not know in chronological order the names of all Elizabeth Taylor's husbands?" But then I realised that Miss Taylor might find that litany useful should she write her autobiography, so it didn't qualify.

In bed that night I tried and tried to think of a piece of wholly useless information and fell asleep from sheer boredom. So fair enough, Keith. You may be right. I, at least, will not be leading a protest march or complaining to the Equal Opportunities Commission.

For Liz, lest she forget

I squirmed a bit at a gentle rebuke from Vanessa Stern of Chichester and Bognor Regis Victim Support about my remarks last week re the help offered me over my burglary. She points out that such groups do not counsel, but give practical advice to people in need.

Of course, I applaud the volunteers who provide such support, but like some of my similarly crabby friends who fear the Californianisation of this once sturdy people, I am put off by the language they use. A voice on the phone saying, "Sorry to hear of your burglary. Are you OK or are there some practical problems with which we can assist you?" is one thing. But if having had some property stolen and the contents of drawers tossed around the house makes me a "victim" who has "suffered", what terminology will be appropriate if my limbs are blown off by a car-bomb?

A friend backed me up by giggling about the experience of her father. In his time a war-hero, a businessman and an MP, who has also experienced great personal tragedy, he was no more than irritated recently when his golf-clubs were stolen at a railway station. But as he was leaving the office of the transport police, one of the officers pressed a card into his hand and said: "If you ring this number, someone will counsel you on your loss."

Apropos the suggestion that the perpetrators of the burglary might have been from the IRA, my friend Eoin points out that rather than call them "Provos", I should adopt their own terminology and substitute "volunteers on active service".

I was diverted to learn that Sir Terry Burns, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, is trying to teach his staff manners with the help of a memorandum instructing them to greet messengers and security staff, apologise to each other if they have spoken sharply and generally try to behave like normal people. This sent me down memory lane to the day during my civil service career when I was assigned a new recruit, a brilliant graduate – whom I shall call Ebenezer – whose intelligence and industry were exceeded only by his arrogance and rudeness.

"What are we to do about Ebenezer?" asked the rest of my staff after a few frightful days. "Break his legs," suggested the clerical assistant – to popular acclaim. Often I wished we could act on her advice, but instead we laboured on trying to enlighten him through example, constructive criticism and explaining through gritted teeth that to make enemies all around the department was counter-productive. Daily I wearily tried to repair the damage he wreaked so effortlessly.

Ebenezer's natural boorishness was exacerbated by his distress at having been posted not to the Treasury, which he felt to be his natural home, but to what he used to explain to anyone who would listen was an inferior department full of mediocrities. Eventually I was called upon to assess Ebenezer's performance and I wrote that despite his considerable intellectual gifts, I considered him so ill-mannered as to be unemployable anywhere except in the Treasury. Reader, they accepted him enthusiastically.

And lest they be rude, Terry Burns

Speaking of arrogance, the tenant of my affections would like you to know that a French restaurant which we frequent has a wine list with a section called "Les Vins du Nouveau Monde", featuring wine from California, Chile, New Zealand and – wait for it – Spain.

I dimple shyly at Hugh Mitchell's response to my request for verse to avenge the wrong President Clinton did me recently in having Belfast cleaned out of transformers:

What he does in the States is ancillary,
But that scoundrel, the husband of Hillary,
For upsetting our Ruth
Should be sentenced, forsooth,
To a couple of days in the pillory.

And George Hummer rubs it in:

Bill Clinton
Has never been to Frinton.
The curl of his nose and lip
is nothing to do
With the unsatisfactory state of
that town's public loo.

My thanks to you and the other balm-providers. I feel much better now.

JST Looms was anxious you be informed about the 1937 limerick celebrating Petomania:

There was a young fellow called Carter
Who was famed as a musical farter.
He could play anything
From "God save the King"
To Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata.

Today's compulsory homework is set by Kate Odgers, whose family has been preoccupied since the late 1940s with finding the beginning of a riddle her father brought home after an evening with friends. "The answer is: 'One rode a horse and the other rhododendron.' I wonder if you, or any of your readers, know the question?"

Please solve this one and thus release the Odgerses to do something useful with the rest of their lives.

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A funeral in Jerusalem

Yitzhak Rabin was not a religious nor a sentimental man. But it seemed that after 27 years of waging battle he had adopted the line in Isaiah which speaks of comforting the prophet's people and crying out to Jerusalem that "her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned". His death at the hands of a young Jewish fanatic is a terrible blow to Israel's democracy. But it cannot reverse the gains that Mr Rabin achieved for his people, nor will it extinguish the desire to achieve a comprehensive peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

Soldier, politician, tactical hawk and strategic dove, Mr Rabin epitomised many of the contradictions that have beset the state of Israel since its foundation. He fought its wars as chief of staff and, as minister of defence, he ordered its debumanising repression of the Palestinians. Mr Rabin was shrewd enough to recognise the difference between a fight for national survival and an occupation that served only to corrode the values of the occupier. He made the choice for peace, not out of naivety or opportunism, but because he saw it as the best way to ensure the security of the Jewish people. The missiles fired from Iraq during the Gulf war of 1991 taught Israelis that protection could no longer be purchased with a few extra miles of territory. They could choose between a permanent state of war or a risky peace, trading occupied land for political recognition. Mr Rabin had the courage, unenthusiastically, to make that decision and be was rightly honoured for it with the Nobel Peace Prize.

Now he has joined the late Anwar Sadat in the upper ranks of those who have paid with their lives for veering away from the purist doctrines of religion and conflict so dominant in Middle Eastern politics. Yet his assassination was an act that simply carried into real life all the vituperative rbetoric heaped upon him ever since the Israeli right realised that its dreams of expansion lay in the dust.

From Binyamin Netanyahu of the Likud, and from its extreme fringes, there came ritual expressions of shock yesterday. They should have been expressions of shame. For too long the "respectable" Israeli right has pandered to its lunatic fringe, legitimising religious fanatics and zealots who spout racist filth about Arabs. These are paranoid minorities in Israeli society, ready even to cheapen the memory of the Holocaust by manipulating painful emotions for their own narrow ends. Theirs is a political culture of violence, hitherto exclusively directed at Palestinians. Now it has claimed an Israeli prime minister.

So let the period of mourning be a time for Mr Netanyahu, for the far right, for the Jewish settlers and their unthinking supporters abroad, to meditate on their future policies. The fact is Mr Rabin'a achievement is irreversible without war. Israel will not go back into Gaza, nor retake the towns of the West Bank, nor consign the Palestinians once more to the limbo of a people without land or identity. With luck, firm nerves and concerted international support, Mr Rabin's successor should proceed to negotiate a withdrawal from the Golan Heights and from the martyred lands of south Lebanon. Peace treaties with Syria and Lebanon remain a worthy and attainable goal.

Yitzhak Rabin was denied the chance to see the fruits of his political courage but his funeral in Jerusalem today should not be seen as the end of his achievement. For it is he who has buried forever the possibility of an Israeli state maintained only by military might and sustained by a perversion of the Zionist ideal. Generations of the Jewish people still unborn, and even the descendants of his Palestinian foes, may yet render him their thanks.

Say No to Nolan at your peril

Today MPs should vote to accept the Nolan Committee's recommendation that they make public any earnings related to their parliamentary activities. Though it may be uncomfortable for MPs to let go their financial privacy, their whole credibility is at stake.

The Government and most Conservative MPs want to keep the financial affairs of backbenchers under wraps. They argue that, as long as MPs are not indulging in "paid advocacy" – furthering the interests of the companies that pay them by influencing legislation, and by lobbying other MPs and ministers – there is no risk for democracy. Paid advice, they say, is a matter of legitimate confidentiality between the individual and company concerned.

But Nolan was appointed to restore public faith in a parliament whose reputation is stained with sleaze. The "paid advocacy" argument fuels public suspicion, because it looks as if MPs are finding the kind of slippery escape route the public expects them to look for.

Voters anyway have a right to know exactly how much "paid advice" by their representatives is worth. Backbenchers who host dinners at the House of Commons so that company executives can impress prospective clients are retailing the offcuts of power. All very well, if companies want to pay for it. But we should certainly know how much is being paid, because MPs are selling something they do not strictly own. They are in a position to sell such things only because voters elected them, and they cannot therefore hide the proceeds from their electors. An MP's access to power and enjoyment of privilege is given in trust through the ballot box.

Of course, this is an uncomfortable process, given that the British are almost as bashful about money as they are about sex. But top executives of public companies answer to shareholders and have recognised the need for fuller accountability. Anyone who exercises the kind of power in which the public are expected to place their trust should be willing to fall within the net. If MPs, why not judges and senior police officers? If utility bosses, why not television interviewers and, God bless us, newspaper editors?

Nolan represents an opportunity. To reject the recommendation of an outsider brought in to lend independent credibility to the attempt to clean up public life would be to undermine the whole exercise. If MPs want to continue under suspicion of sleaze then they should say No to Nolan. If they want to mend public confidence, they should vote today to flip their pocket-books open.

ANOTHER VIEW Claire Rayner

An exposure of prurience

The case of Julia Somerville appals me. The mere idea that anyone with serious intentions of taking pornographic photographs of their children would then send them to Boots The Chemist for processing is so ludicrous it is bizarre – it is like a scenario out of the worst kind of television comedy show.

What is the world coming to if we react to the nudity of small children with such disgust and suspicion? Even in a sexually explicit age, children's nudity is an innocent thing, celebrated quite rightly by parents proud of their children's beautiful bodies. There is no erotic content in the sort of pictures taken by parents every day – and the innocent sight of babies' bottoms is used on our television screens to sell nappies without anyone being arrested and questioned by Scotland Yard. When I look through my family's photograph album, I see pictures of my children nude on the beach, in the bath, in the garden. I would guess that there isn't a parent in the country who hasn't got similar pictures.

We currently seem to have difficulty in recognising the difference between healthy, natural nudity and sexual display. *Pride and Prejudice* was a huge hit recently – yet it contained heaving almost-naked bosoms in every other shot. No one complained about that – it is only nakedness that seems to upset people. Clothes, in fact, can be far more worrying than nudity. The sight of a three-year-old girl dressed for the beach in a bikini top, aping adult sexuality is surely obscene. Yet pictures like that would presumably not raise a flicker in the fundamentalist photographic processing department department at Boots The Chemist.

Parents must not play along with this sort of hysteria. It runs against all normal human instincts, and must be resisted. It reminds me of the moral panic that persuaded social workers that Satanic abuse was sweeping the country – and all the suffering to families that ensued. I feel desperately sorry for Julia Somerville who, despite being in the public eye, has always maintained her dignity and her privacy. How offensive this must be to her, and how devastating that her children have been named in the papers and will surely be teased and questioned at school on Monday. I hope Ms Somerville will sue Boots and the police for the distress caused to her whole family.

As for the rest of us, there is a simple way that parents can make a stand against this kind of behaviour. We mustn't fall into the trap of over-caution, of being afraid to act naturally with our children for fear of being carted off to Scotland Yard. Tonight I hope every parent in Britain takes pictures of their beautiful children in the bath, and floods Boots' department of prurient processing with them. That is the proper response to idiocy of this kind.

The writer is a former agony aunt, a broadcaster, journalist and novelist.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Rabin: the high price of peace

From Rabbi Walter Rothschild
Sir: One can only condemn the brutal assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. A veteran of many wars, he was also a man of vision who could see the prospects for peace and was prepared to pay a high price for it, if necessary. But this price was too high. A terrible, cowardly blow.

Those of us outside Israel can only watch, helpless, as those who seem to prefer a continuation of violence and hostility do all in their power to delay or thwart the peace process. This particular attack, coming moreover from Jewish opponents of that process, has been a grievous and tragic setback.

We must hope that Mr. Rabin's mission will nevertheless reach fruition – for the alternative would be continued war, continued bloodshed, continued misery. And we know from history how terrible and pointless this can be.

Zecher Tzaddik Livrachah – May His memory be a Blessing.
Yours faithfully,
WALTER ROTHSCHILD
Leeds
4 November

From Ms Deborah Pritchett and Mr Jonathan Regal
Sir: When Jewish blood is shed, every Jew mourns. What brought us into existence, in 1948, as a people with a homeland was a unity and passion for the religion. We made ourselves a people and a nation, Israel became our crown and power. By the power that we have been given, we have hurt ourselves. It is Israel, through its deep divisions, that fuelled the young Jew to kill his leader, and our leader.

What Jew could act against his own laws, except the Jew who has no religion, but faith in a political whim. This whim has spat upon our dreams. It has spat upon our law. In its disregard for life, it has spat upon the essence of Judaism. What is it that makes a young man so bold as to spit at peace and at his leaders?

When Theodore Herzl, the leader of Zionism, said, "I am at the head of only boys and beggars ... with dreams", could he have believed that the beggar boy would come from Israel's own ranks to spill the blood of another Jew into the upturned glasses of anti-Jewish, anti-Israeli men, laughing at Israel's humiliation at the hands of its lone gunman?
Yours faithfully,
DEBORAH PRITCHETT
JONATHAN REGAL
Lenham, Kent
4 November

Financial disclosure of MPs' 'consultancies'

From Mr Bryan Greetham
Sir: With more than 100 MPs threatening to stand down at the next general election if they are required to reveal their earnings from "consultancies", the Government is desperate for the public to accept a subtle redefinition of the term. There is, therefore, an urgent need for clarity.

At the least culpable end of the spectrum, there are MPs who are members of trade unions and professions, or who campaign for voluntary associations without payment or reward of any kind. This is where the Government would like the debate to reside.

But this only serves to obscure activities at the other end of this spectrum of culpability, where MPs exploit their privileged position to line their own pockets by selling their influence for cash. This includes not just the one-off cash payments for various services, such as putting down questions; but, more significantly, it includes the activities of PR firms, including some set up by backbench Conservative MPs, which have mushroomed over the past 15 years and now, more than any other factor, are progressively damaging Parliament's reputation and destroying its moral authority.

Setting aside the interests of their constituents, MPs sell their influence in Parliament to the highest bidder. Influence has shifted to those who can pay the large sums demanded: the tobacco and drinks industries, the multinational fast food companies, even the South African government as it desperately sought to stave off reform.

This is influence exerted not on the basis of principle, but pecuniary interest. We should not be deceived. If MPs were prosecution witnesses, we would not object to the defence bringing to the attention of the jury the fact that they are being paid for their story.
Yours faithfully,
B. GREETHAM
Caldas de Monchique,
Portugal

From Mr John Paterson Paterson
Sir: Many years ago I was a member of a county borough council. We were required to declare all our financial interests, and they were recorded. Moreover, we were not allowed to speak or vote on any matter in which we had an interest.

When any matter in which we had an interest was under discussion, we formally declared it and left the chamber or committee room until we were invited back after the discussion was completed and the vote taken. This was required by an Act of Parliament, to ensure that we did not use our position as representatives for our own benefit.

Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?
Yours faithfully
JOHN PATERSON PATERSON
Grappenhall,
Cheshire
2 November

From Mr Ernest Wood
Sir: Conservative MPs say that as we have no right to know what our neighbour earns, we should not expect to know what our MPs get either. But MPs are the servants of their constituents, who pay their salaries, and the constituents have every right – perhaps even an obligation – to know what their parliamentary representatives are getting on the side for doing things that have nothing to do with their constituency duties, but everything to do with their MP's personal advantage and that of the businesses who are paying them. If Conservatives are in Parliament to enrich themselves financially, then the voters have a right to know whether they are getting a few pounds for their trouble or thousands of pounds for selling themselves.

The claim that everything is changed because advocacy is being banned just will not do. Giving advice instead of advocacy is splitting hairs. It is influence the MPs are really selling and that will be unchanged.

I do not think 100 Conservative MPs will need to resign if financial disclosure becomes mandatory. The voters will throw them out at the next general election for devoting themselves to paid outside interests, the fruits of which they tried to keep secret.
Yours truly
ERNEST WOOD
Okehampton, Devon
2 November

Mackay wants to save marriages

From The Rev Fred Pritchard
Sir: Perhaps it is time for a minister, who has had some experience in 40 years of dealing with requests for marriage, including the second marriage of divorced persons, to say something about the present campaign to save the institution from the alleged attacks of the Lord Chancellor.

I have not yet heard a single argument from the opponents against Lord Mackay's contention that the proposed year's delay for mediation is more likely to help strengthen marriage than weaken it. Indeed, their so-called reasons sound suspiciously like an attempt to convince by persistent reiteration of ill-thought-out slogans.

As for the contention that the stability of marriage depends on being able to fasten fault: does anyone imagine that the breakdown of a solemnly entered relationship can happen without fault? The difficulty is that in most cases there are faults on both sides, and the attempt by either party to fix all the blame on the other can only make a bad situation worse. Mediation, even if it fails to heal the breach, can prevent the bitterness getting worse.

It is not only politically correct lefties who can see the merits of Lord Mackay's proposals.
FRED S. PRITCHARD
Newport, Gwent
3 November

From Mrs Alex Howe
Sir: In suggesting that "women (and children) are [financially] hardest hit" by divorce, Helen Wilkinson (Comment, 3 November) demonstrates a dismal disregard for the fathers, who are seen by the Courts and the Child Support Agency merely as cash dispensers. Where is her acknowledgement of those men who have been manipulated out of their homes by women only too well aware of the anti-male bias of current legislation, and who exploit the system to their own advantage? Many fathers find themselves having to fight expensive legal battles for the right to contribute more than just money to their children, against an ex-wife receiving legal aid.

When is society going to acknowledge that women are individuals who must be required to accept certain responsibilities for their actions, before using an indulgent legislation to claim "rights" they do not deserve?

All human beings are capable of making errors of judgement in relationships, and each situation will be viewed subjectively by its participants, but legislation must not destabilise marriage. It needs to facilitate a basically sound institution, which has been demeaned by many contributory factors, not least the unwillingness to accept that marriage is a two-way street in which both partners must give as well as take.
Yours faithfully,
ALEX HOWE
Hoveton, Norfolk
3 November

Discrimination inside the Met

From Ms Jackie Cole
Sir: I find Sir Paul Condon's letter (30 October) both flattering and distressing. Flattering because the Commissioner must obviously feel the addition of one full-time female representative would help to solve all the problems of harassment and discrimination within the Metropolitan Police. Disturbing because what the Commissioner failed to mention in his letter was that this full-time position was offered as part of a package, along with an offer of full-time male representatives, in return for overall reduction in federation representation. Because of this, the offer was totally unacceptable.

If Sir Paul would again make the offer of a full-time female representative, without imposing any conditions, this would be a welcome addition to the full-time representation and, as he points out, would greatly assist my colleagues who, on a daily basis, are reporting incidents of sexual harassment and discrimination from within the Metropolitan Police Service.
Yours faithfully,
JACKIE COLE
Metropolitan Police
Federation Representative
Police Federation
London, E14
2 November

Prying and prejudice

From Mr Stephen J. King
Sir: The plight of Julia Somerville [arrested over allegedly indecent photographs of her seven-year-old daughter] is unfortunately not unique. As the author of a research paper presented to the Home Office, The Law Society, and Scotland Yard on the "child porn" legislation (The Protection of Children Act 1978), I am aware of several cases in which the intervention of high-street photo-processing firms has led to police investigation, unwarranted publicity, and subsequent horrendous disruption of family life.

The problem with this law lies in its interpretation. There is no adequate interpretation of "indecent" photographs, and this leaves the door wide open for unjust activity by the authorities. Such photographs must effectively be *prejudged* as "indecent" by the arresting officer or his superior, before coming in front of a magistrate or jury. About 40 to 50 prosecutions for taking or distributing indecent photographs are made each year, according to Home Office statistics, and between one-quarter and one-half of these are brought as a result of complaints by processing laboratory staff. It should also be mentioned that, of these prosecutions made between 1991 and 1993, about one-third resulted in acquittals or proceedings being discontinued.

Can we assume that, whether Ms Somerville is eventually found to be innocent or guilty, her and her partner's names will be added to the computerised NCIS (National Criminal Intelligence Serviee) Paedophile Index because of this incident? Is it in the *best* interests of her daughter to be subjected to stressful interviews by police and/or social services? Also, do we assume that a child's body is *inherently* indecent, or should we continue to be able photographically to portray it in happy and innocent states, as well as in artistic ones? That is a lawful activity.
Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN KING
London, SE24
4 November

Sweet memories

From Mr Ken Farnhill
Sir: I can confirm Alexi Sayle's experience (Section Two, 31 October) of the different taste of KitKats destined for other, particularly sunnier, parts of the globe.

May I point out, however, that whatever Nestlé has done to the KitKat, and other brand names under its control, the company cannot be regarded as KitKat's "creator". That honour belongs to Rowntree Mackintosh. Nestlé's main achievement, since taking over Rowntree, seems to be having made KitKat, Yorkie *et al* taste worse.
Yours faithfully,
KEN FARNHILL
Cambridge
31 October

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'Artist' at work

From Mr Paul Brewer
Sir: Waldemar Januszczak (letter, 3 November) makes two ridiculous and unprovable claims concerning Damien Hirst's *Mother and Child Divided*; first, that it is an important work of British art and second, that, I quote, "all of us want it to last not one year or 10 years, but hundreds of years".

Why is it important, and to whom, I wonder? Will its presence increase the day-to-day quality of life of the average person, if indeed such a being actually exists? And who are the "all of us" who wish this so-called work of art to last hundreds of years?

Art lovers of the future referred to by Mr Januszczak will probably be laughing up their sleeves at the pretentious nonsense perpetrated by Damien Hirst and lauded by "luvvies" who pass themselves off to a not-so-gullible public as experts and art lovers.
Yours sincerely,
PAUL BREWER
Freeland,
Oxfordshire
3 November

هكذا من الأصل

comment

Riddled with corruption? I don't buy it

Driven by envy, public moral fervour over MPs and sleaze has made mountains out of molehills

NIALL FERGUSON

Power corrupts, as we all know. But the converse is also true: impotence purifies. That is the point to bear in mind, whichever way today's vote on the Nolan report goes.

Labour, purified by 16 years in opposition, simply cannot lose. The public wants to hear what Mr Blair and his sidekicks will spend all day saying: the Tories have something to hide.

Yes folks: the Conservative Party is riddled with corruption. Every second MP is on the payroll of some dodgy "consultancy" firm or other, and the rest are available on a freelance basis. For the price of a decent lunch at Shepherd's and a cheque for £1,000, they will happily ask any question and table any motion. The worst excesses of the worst banana republic have got nothing on Mr Major's party.

Well, if you buy the idea of a Tory monopoly on sleaze, you'll buy just about anything. Need I do more than mention the names Stonehouse and Belcher? Or what about the Marconi scandal, which nearly wrecked the career of Lloyd George, that most radical of Liberals?

The same point would leap off the pages of a decent history of British local government. Indeed, growing up in Glasgow, I came to associate sleaze with certain Labour councillors who were hand in glove with (not to say related by blood and marriage to) certain building contractors.

Look abroad if you still cling to the notion of a unique nexus between sleaze and the right. In Belgium, in Spain and in France – to say nothing of the outstandingly venal United States – corruption is a cross-party function of being in power. (In super-efficient Germany, as the Flick scandal revealed, some companies just dish out the dosh to all the major parties)

Only when you appreciate the link between corruption and power, do you begin to see how laughable the entire Nolan business really is. To me, the bizarre thing is that anyone should ever consider Tory MPs worth paying, in the way "exposed" by the *Sunday Times*. The plain fact is that MPs – and most junior ministers – do not really have power. Indeed, I almost feel sorry for anyone who has parted with hard-earned cash merely for some political nonentity to pose a question in the Commons. Did no one tell them about the transfer of power from the legislature to the executive?

The point is that there is only one sort of sleaze worth worrying about, and that is the sort involving ministers, or indeed civil servants. Put it this way, and you realise what a remarkably uncorrupt government we have had since 1979.

There have been sex scandals, of course. And yes, it seems likely – though we still await the Scott report – that ministers bent their own rules governing the sale of arms to Iraq. But it takes a peculiar sort of warped Puritanism to think that a man cannot run a government department simply because he likes to have it off in a Chelsea strip. And the worst conclusion to be drawn about Matrix Churchill is that, far from being in hock to the arms dealers, certain ministers were ready to let the company's directors go to jail rather than reveal their own complicity in a covert export drive. No one has suggested for a minute that the ministers in question stood to gain financially from the trade with Iraq.

> The bizarre thing is that anyone should consider Tory MPs worth paying

The reality is that British political life remains, by international standards, boringly punctilious. Which is not surprising, considering what mountains the press and public have made out of the pre-Nolan molehills.

So why do companies bother paying for the services of hackbench MPs? For much the same reason, it seems to me, that accountancy firms take would-be clients for games of golf, drug companies shower doctors with free stationery, journalists take contacts for liver-curdling lunches and travel firms send journalists on skin-scorching holidays. Such transactions – some of which lead to reciprocal favours, but many of which do not – are simply what makes our world go round. And in a country in which the state spends the equivalent of about 40 per cent of GNP, it would be odd if such freebies and perks never came the way of MPs.

The notion implicit in Labour's line of argument – that MPs should only represent their constituents, should represent them all equally, and should live on nothing but their salary – is absurd.

Of course, not everyone is part of the Great Chain of Buying. Roughly one fifth of the population is "corrupted" in a rather different way, in the form of doles from the state itself. These are often the same people who pester MPs for improvements in the level of benefits to which they believe themselves to be entitled, and vote for the candidate who promises the biggest improvement.

In short, public enthusiasm for new Labour's rhetoric about Nolan is the snow-white tip of a grey iceberg of hypocrisy. Well, I for one am not prepared to join in. As it happens, I find myself in a position not dissimilar to that of MPs today. I am employed as a Fellow and lecturer at a university, for which I am paid even less than an MP. A substantial piece of my income comes from writing pieces like this.

As things stand now, that is a matter between me, my accountant and the taxman. But every now and then Blair-like voices demand that we should all declare our outside earnings. The motive for this is clear: university bureaucrats want to get their hands on at least a proportion of what I and others earn "on the side". It has been argued that, because I am an employee of the university, all my income is in some sense the university's, to be taxed and redistributed as it sees fit.

Were such a measure to be introduced, I would be out of university life before you could say "something to hide". Even compulsory declaration of outside earnings would make me think twice. This would be a pity, because I rather like teaching, economically irrational though it is – just as I am sure many MPs like politics, though its opportunity cost is also high.

Why would disclosure of earnings worry me? Because, like the Tory MPs who have forced John Major to water down Nolan, I fear the envy of others. In other countries, to earn money from a variety of different sources is considered a sign of success. But even if everyone in the country were obliged to declare publicly their total earnings, the financial winners would be the moral losers.

I am not sure why envy is so powerful an emotion in this country. Perhaps it is the memory of wartime rationing. Perhaps it goes back to Puritan sermons about camels and needles' eyes. But the spirit of envy will be abroad today, in the House of Commons and in the country. Why not vote for the publication of all tax returns while you are at it, chaps?

Sport defies the US game plan

MILES KINGTON

My eye was caught by a headline in the *International Herald Tribune* the other day, saying: "British Miss Point of NBA Circus". I had no idea what this meant. So, of course, I read the story. That is why one reads foreign papers like the *Tribune* – to learn. Apparently, several top basketball teams had arrived in London, sponsored by McDonald's, to stage a tournament. But not enough people had turned out to watch. So the *Tribune* had run a story saying that we British missed the point of basketball.

In fact, as the writer, Ian Thomsen, pointed out, basketball is already big on the Continent, so it is only the British, of the Europeans, who cannot see the point. The British seem to believe, says Thomsen, that "basketball is essentially too easy, with goals dealt back and forth like cards from a deck. On the other side of the ocean, World Cup or not, Americans scoff at the idea of soccer games with no scoring at all. But the British majority, who believe staunchly in the less-is-more of soccer, will probably grow used to fast breaks and alley-oops just like they have got used to Big Macs, car phones, 'call-waiting' and multi-channel cable television."

It is not often you find a sportswriter using a column to score points off other cultures, and I felt almost inclined to defend the British here, until I realised that what Thomsen was doing was not attacking the British, but defending the Americans. The Americans have been desperate for many years to have one of their sports accepted abroad. They are conscious that there are games in the world like football, cycling and rugby which mean a lot to a lot of people except in America. They are aware that many games popular in the United States, such as golf and tennis, do not have American origins. They are conscious that the few games which are indigenous to America have never found favour outside. So when the British do not turn up to watch basketball, it irks them.

It irks them that the Americans have never managed to invent a game which has gone on to sweep around the world. American football ... baseball ... basketball ... cheer-leading ... ice hockey ... all of these have achieved a foothold outside the US, but have never really flourished away from the home belt. So, the Americans scratch their heads and look on amazed as the rest of the world persists in loving football, with its low scoring rate and sometimes no scoring rate.

They cannot see how any game which does not produce a lot of points, nor goals, nor runs, nor *something*, can possibly be any good. They cannot comprehend how cricket can be played for five days and still end in a draw.

Of course, the Americans are not alone in having games which are hard to export. From time to time, Channel 4 has enterprisingly brought us strange games from other countries – such as Australian rules football, Gaelic football, Japanese sumo wrestling and that funny form of tag from India, the name of which I can never remember.

Indeed, Channel 4 could be said to have invented a new game call "Guess the Rules", in which the competitor switches on the set to watch a foreign game and has to work out the rules of the game, the scoring system and even the country of origin. There are other games that I do not remember ever having seen on television, even in these global days, such as Thai kick-boxing and the Burmese game called chinlon but, as I do not have access to a non-stop sports channel, I may be behind the times here ...

Judging from Thomsen's list of things I am supposed to be used to, I certainly am behind the times. I have not got used to Big Macs. I hate Big Macs. I have not got used to car phones and multi-channel cable television.

And I am not even sure what "call-waiting" is. If, as I suspect, it is the unbearably smug woman, like a sort of female version of Michael Howard, who answers your telephone call with the message along the lines of "The person you have dialled knows you are calling but is talking to someone far more interesting, so you will have to wait a while, won't you?", then no, I have not got used to call-waiting and I personally would like to come round and grab call-waiting round the neck and strangle the living daylights out of call-waiting ...

I am sorry. I have fallen prey to the temptation to score points off the Yanks. But at least it shows I'm wrong. There is one sport that originated in the US, to spread throughout the world and become played everywhere: America-bashing. It is an easy game, too high-scoring to be really significant, but it is still a lot of fun.

The Jewish state believed in its unity. **Patrick Cockburn** analyses the tensions too strong to beat

The day the Israeli dream died

The assassination of Yitzhak Rabin was the result of a gamble that failed. His government believed that by ignoring the extreme religious right-wingers who saw the peace process as a betrayal of Israel it could isolate and marginalise them. It made no effort to disarm them, despite their repeated threats that they would resort to violence.

The peace rally at which he died was a perfect illustration of the strategy. Tens of thousands of Israeli supporters of the peace process stood in Tel Aviv's main sqare, singing and chanting for peace. In a side street stood stood a huddle of right-wingers holding a placard promising "a rope for the traitors". But it was a bullet, not a rope, that killed the "traitor" – and may have ended for ever the dream of Jewish unity that sustained the state of Israel for 47 years.

> The assassination will sharpen the differences between the religious and the secular Jews

It is nation whose citizens come from scores of different countries, with a fragmented political system which gives influence to the tiniest of parties, where there are myriad tensions between the religious and the secular, the Ashkenazi (Eastern European) and Sephardi (Middle Eastern) Jews, between groups of immigrants and competing brands of Zionism. Israelis pride themselves on their tough, argumentative, macho natures, but until yesterday they believed the threat from outside would enable them to bridge any divisions within.

Mr Rabin's policy of marginalising his opponents almost succeeded. Right-wing demonstrations in recent months have been ill-attended. The 140,000 Israeli settlers in the occupied territories received only lukewarm support from Likud, the mainstream party of the right. The opponents of progressive Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank became increasingly desperate after Mr Rabin and Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, signed an agreement in Washington on 28 September that within a few months Israeli troops are to withdraw from the main Palestinian cities and the peace agreement will become irreversible.

Politicians and security officials saw there was a danger that the most extreme enemies of the peace process would resort to violence. The Israeli press has been speculating on the chances of a repeat of last year's atrocity when Baruch Goldstein, a religious settler, slaughtered 29 Muslims in a mosque in Hebron. "The script was written," said Professor Ehud Sprinzak, an expert on the radical right at Hebrew University. "The potential assassins were there. Over the last week I have been worried sick. Rabin was shown in posters in an Arab *kafiyeh* [headdress] like Arafat, with his hands covered in blood. At a demonstration in Jerusalem there was a picture of him in SS uniform." The demonisation set the stage for assassination.

Yitzhak Rabin: he gambled and lost

In mid summer the bodyguards around Mr Rabin and Shimon Peres were strengthened. But Yigal Amir, the assassin, was able to own a pistol while associating with extreme groups and distributing anti-Rabin leaflets. Twice before this year he is said to have attended meetings addressed by the prime minister in the hope of making an attack. For all the forewarnings about violence – and Mr Rabin's assassination was frequently predicted – Amir came within a few feet of him, despite the presence of 700 police. Perhaps they couldn't believe an Israeli Jew would ignore communal solidarity and kill their prime minister.

The assassination can only sharpen the deep differences in Israel between secular and religious Jews. The vast majority of Israelis are secular, but the religious are far more numerous than just the ultra-orthodox in their black hats and suits. Since the founding of the state, when some early Zionists dreamt of a secular socialist nation and others worked to build a country based on strict orthodox Judaism, the differences have been deepening as increasingly religious Israelis combined territorial nationalism with cultural exclusiveness.

The religious-secular tensions always shaped Israeli electoral politics. In 1977, Mr Rabin's first government was brought down because of religious protests over a ceremony to receive US fighter aircraft on the Sabbath. The three most famous acts of political violence by Israelis during the past 15 years were all carried out by students from religious seminaries – a grenade thrown into a demonstration of Israelis against the invasion of Lebanon in 1982, Goldstein's massacre in Hebron and now the assassination of Mr Rabin.

How far has Amir succeeded in derailing the peace process? Yossi Sarid, a senior minister, said: "The prime minister has been assassinated, but the policies of this government have not been assassinated." Mr Peres, who has been more committed than Mr Rabin to the peace process but who is less popular with the electorate, becomes prime minister. Binyamin Netanyahu, Likud's leader, will tone down his opposition to withdrawal and Palestinian self-rule. To stand a chance of winning the next election, he needs to refute accusations that his overheated attacks on Mr Rabin's government created the atmosphere in which the assassination took place.

This gives Mr Peres room to manoeuvre in the short term. He could even try to capitalise on the discrediting of the far right by holding a snap election in three months' time – though this could delay the withdrawal process. This would be a dangerous manoeuvre. Israel's divisions about Palestinian self-rule will not go away. In Mr Rabin the Labour Party has lost its best vote-winner. It will try to persuade voters that opposition to the peace process is a vote for the politics of Amir, but it may not succeed.

At the same time, the agreements with the Palestinians have their own momentum, even if they are not very popular with either side. Polls show that a majority of Israelis dislike and distrust Mr Arafat, but a majority also feel they must go on talking to him. They do not necessarily want to withdraw, but they also do not want to face the alternative – which is to fight.

> Agreements with the Palestinians have their own momentum, even if they are unpopular

Many Palestinians are equally unimpressed. Israel will still have overall military control of the West Bank. But there is a deep desire to see Israeli troops withdraw, even if it is only to the edge of town. Mr Arafat may not have got Palestinians what they want, but he has won them more than they had before. His opponents have failed to mobilise popular support, despite the many failings of Mr Arafat's authoritarian government. Ordinary Palestinians do not believe there is an alternative policy. Leaders of Hamas, the largest extremist Islamic organisation, admit they are in disarray despite their campaign of Israeli bus bombings that has caused great anguish in the Jewish state.

The distress of the bus bombings, however great, was nothing compared to yesterday's shock of violence by one Jew against another Jew. Liberal Israelis were yesterday hoping the trauma would discredit the opposition to the peace process and the messianic religious zealots alike. Some settler leaders sounded abashed by the consequences of their rhetoric. But this is probably only temporary. The divisions that led to the assassination are too deep to be overcome. In the past, friction between Israel and the outside world masked – both to foreigners and to Israelis themselves – the deep tensions within the country, which on Saturday exploded into violence. Along with Mr Rabin will be buried the idea that Jewish communal solidarity makes Israel different and more united than other states.

Generation Why — by Tony Reeve and Steve Way

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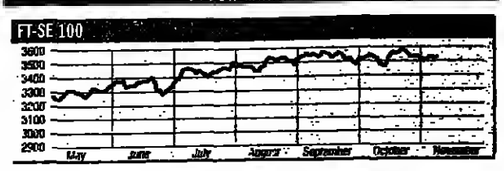
MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT-SE 100



Index	Close	Week's chg	Change(%)	12 Mth High	12 Mth Low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	3500.4	+2.5	+0.1	3593.0	2943.4	4.0
FTSE 250	3873.7	+9.4	+0.2	3991.3	3300.9	3.5
FTSE 350	1742.7	+1.9	+0.1	1785.3	1477.0	3.9
FT Small Cap	1939.3	-0.3	-0.0	1993.1	1678.6	3.4
FT All-Share	1720.3	+1.7	+0.1	1757.6	1465.2	3.9
New York	4825.6	+83.8	+1.8	4825.6	3674.6	2.4
Tokyo	18028.8	+691.6	+4.0	19811.6	14485.4	0.8
Hong Kong	9855.8	+175.1	+1.8	10032.9	6967.9	3.3
Frankfurt	2181.7	+85.6	+4.1	2317.0	1911.0	2.0
Paris	1832.1	+89.7	+5.2	2017.3	1721.8	3.7
Milan	9336.0	+125.0	+1.4	10911.0	8912.0	2.7

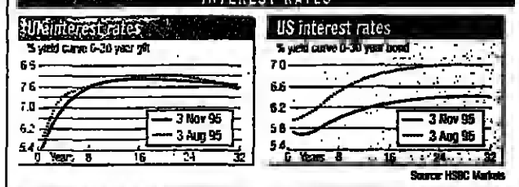
MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Limit: FTSE 350 companies

Rises – Top 5	Price(p)	Week's Change(p)	%Change
Refuge Group	433	31	7.7
Pilkington	197.5	13	7.1
Lucas Indust	198	13	7.0
Invesco	251.5	16.5	7.0
Rugby Group	113	7	6.6

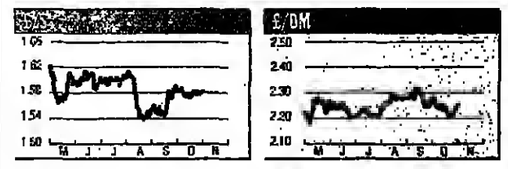
Falls – Top 5	Price(p)	Week's Change(p)	%Change
Baird (William)	192	26	11.9
Kwik Save	600	79	11.6
Bryant Group	93.5	9.5	9.2
Iceland Group	153	14	8.4
Kalon Group	112	10	8.2

INTEREST RATES



Source: HSBC Markets

CURRENCIES



Pound vs.	Close	Week's Chg	Yr Ago
$ (London)	1.5793	-0.12c	1.6175
$ (N York)	1.5800	+0.20c	–
DM (London)	2.2348	+2.29pf	2.4499
Yen (London)	163.62	+Y3.12	157.89
£ Index	84.3	+0.5	89.8

Dollar vs.	Close	Week's Chg	Yr Ago
£ (London)	0.6332	+0.05	0.6182
£ (N York)	0.6337	-0.08	–
DM (London)	1.4159	+1.54pf	1.5146
Yen (London)	103.57	+Y2.12	97.61
$ Index	93.5	+0.4	93.6

OTHER INDICATORS

	Close	Week's chg	Year Ago
Oil Brent $	16.63	+$0.35	17.98
Gold $	382.50	-$0.25	383.70
Gold £	242.50	+0.33	237.22

	Index	Latest	Year Ago	Next Figs
RPI	150.6	3.9pc	2.4	16 Nov
GDP	106.6	2.4pc	4.1	20 Nov
Base Rates –		6.75pc	5.25	–

Source: Datastream

IN BRIEF

Amerada ready to pipe in the West

Amerada Hess, the independent gas company, is poised to supply tens of thousands of private customers in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset with its own gas supplies, promising to cut at least 15 per cent off their bills. The company says the reduction, worth £50 a year for an average two-bedroom terrace, will be delivered via British Gas pipes with all meters, emergency and safety arrangements being unaffected. Amerada is also guaranteeing to peg prices at their current levels for at least two years.

The company's move into household gas supply follows a long battle to force British Gas to abandon its own monopoly in the sector. Last year, the Government gave independent suppliers the green light to supply households, despite a Monopolies and Mergers Commission ruling that this should not take place until the end of the century.

Homeowners feeling better

Homeowners across the UK are increasingly optimistic about the housing market, according to a survey by Birmingham Midshires Building Society. The society's "feel-good" index shows the number of people looking to move home in the next 12 months has risen significantly in the third quarter.

Victrex to float at £120m

Victrex, the plastics company, is preparing to float on the Stock Exchange, with a market capitalisation of up to £120m. The Lancashire-based company recorded a 45 per cent rise in operating profits to £10.2m, on turnover of £31.3m, in the year ending September 1995.

British holiday shortage

One in nine British workers receives no paid holidays, according to a study by Francis Green, a professor at Leeds University School of Business and Economic Studies. Part-time and temporary staff or those working in small workplaces are most likely not to get holiday pay. Professor Green's survey also shows that British workers are the only ones in Europe to have no legal right to paid holidays.

Call for spending cuts

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, could cut up to £3bn off the tax bill, allowing him to top a penny off the basic rate of income tax, by cutting spending and reducing next year's contingency reserve, according to Roger Bootle, chief economist at HSBC Greenwell. However, Alan Davies, Barclays's chief economist, said unless any tax cuts were matched by public spending reductions, interest rates would be forced up.

TDI wins Irish advertising contract

TDI, the UK's top transport advertising firm, has been awarded a five-year licence to run all transport advertising in the Republic of Ireland. The contract gives TDI one third of all outdoor advertising in the Republic. The company's 150,000 UK sites generate about £30m in sales.

Property market awaits Budget

Property buyers and sellers are waiting to see whether this month's Budget will have an impact on their investments, according to the Richard Ellis research consultancy. In the short term the market will not suffer, irrespective of whether steps are taken to boost confidence. The consultancy's October monthly index shows average initial yield rose from 8.5 to 8.6 per cent.

Companies stay open to EMU

Only a fifth of British companies believe the door should be firmly shut on European monetary union, according to a survey commissioned from Mori by the CBI and the British Chambers of Commerce. Due to be published today, the survey is expected to be challenged by the Institute of Directors.

Privatisation: Government urged to scrap golden share and change rules on property profits

Railtrack seeks new sweeteners

PETER RODGERS
AND CHRISTIAN WOLMAR

Railtrack is fighting to make its flotation next year more attractive to the City by arguing it should be allowed to keep some of the profits it makes on property development, and pressing the Government not to retain a golden share that would allow ministers to block takeovers.

The moves follow the disclosure in Saturday's *Independent* that the Government is set to give the railways an additional subsidy of £100m to cover the costs of Railtrack's inability to keep services running on time.

All three measures are seen as important to boosting the value of Railtrack when it is floated next April or May – after a long period in which City estimates of the company's value have more than halved from an initial guess of as much as £4bn.

Under rail privatisation legislation, the company is due to hand any profits on property development back to the Government so they can be used to reduce the train operating companies' track access charges.

But Railtrack has told John Swift, the rail regulator, that there will be no incentive to develop trackside property if its shareholders do not receive a part of the action.

Although British Rail kept a large number of properties in public ownership, Railtrack was handed a considerable amount of land needed for operational use of the railways, including the stations. Much of this is certain to be developed when the property market recovers.

Railtrack's opposition to a golden share is thought to be based on the fact that this would depress the value of the company because it would remove any takeover premium.

At the likely flotation price of up to £2bn, Railtrack would be an easy mouthful for a large company to swallow and there would be enormous embarrassment for the Government if, for example, the bidder were a foreign railway operator.

Railtrack's hostility to golden shares follows a statement from Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, last month that it had been a mistake for the Government to retain a golden share in the regional electricity companies. This contributed to the undervaluing of the companies when they were sold.

Railtrack is also believed to be arguing strongly for a flotation of 100 per cent of its shares, although the Government has so far committed itself only to selling 51 per cent or more. Department of Transport sources have said 51 per cent is the minimum.

The main argument put forward within Railtrack for a sale of the entire company is that it would reduce the political risk and potential disruption from an incoming Labour government, which could retake control by buying 2 per cent if only 51 per cent were in private hands.

It has also emerged that the Government and its advisers are considering a tender offer to institutions as one option for the Railtrack sale, because it might produce higher revenues than a public offer for sale. A proportion, perhaps 20 per cent, might still be kept back for the public at a discount to the tender price.

Underneath the arches: property developments like these at Liverpool Street spell big profits Photograph: Brian Harris

The additional £100m subsidy would be funnelled to Railtrack through supplementary track access charges paid to the company by the train operators. It is to compensate for the financial risk to Railtrack of meeting tough new performance targets set by Mr Swift, which will increase the volatility of its profits and reduce the value of its shares.

Half the agreements on performance monitoring between Railtrack and the 25 train companies have been signed, with the remainder due to be completed by Christmas. It is a vital pre-requisite of the privatisation that these deals are sewn up since the performance regimes represent one of the uncertainties surrounding Railtrack's financial strength.

While Railtrack could lose a substantial proportion of its income – believed to be up to 10 per cent – the extent of the losses will be capped, and if Railtrack performs better than expected, it will receive extra money.

This capping was insisted upon by Railtrack as otherwise the risk would have been unacceptable to the private sector.

Two bidders drop out of ITN share sale

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Two potential buyers of shares in Independent Television News have taken themselves out of the running, jeopardising the planned sale of a 32 per cent stake in the ITV news provider.

HTV and Yorkshire Tyne-Tees, both ITV licence-holders, have confirmed that they will not take up shares offered by Lazard Freres, the investment bank, on behalf of Granada and Carlton, the media companies.

Ward Thomas, chairman of YTT, said uncertainty over ITN's status as sole supplier of news to ITV made it impossible to agree a price for the shares. "At this stage, we don't know what the price of the shares should be. We do not know if a second news provider might be appointed, and how that would affect the price of the shares."

BSkyB, the satellite and cable broadcaster that operates the 24-hour Sky News, has offered to supply ITV for about £30m a year, compared with the £55m currently charged by ITN. The Independent Television Commission, which regulates the provision of news on ITV, said late last week that it had written to BSkyB inviting the company to expand on its proposals. BSkyB, owned 40 per cent by Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, intends to reply within 21 days.

BSkyB has also been asked to show how it would meet rules limiting shareholdings in a designated news provider to 20 per cent. It is expected that the broadcaster would establish a separate company, with partners, to offer the service.

YTT's Mr Thomas conceded that the company had made a firm offer for 20 per cent of the ITN shares recently, but that no agreement could be reached. He said the offer would not be renewed. The ownership situation at ITN was confused by a pre-emptive right held by other ITN shareholders, Reuters, Scottish Television and MAI, to increase their holdings when shares are made available.

Lazard insists that there are plenty of potential buyers, but declined to discuss price or terms of the intended sale.

It is believed that most ITV licence-holders would prefer to retain ITN as the news supplier, and submissions to the ITC last month indicate reasonably wide support. But insiders at Sky insist that their bid is serious, and that at least some ITV companies would prefer their service to ITN's.

The competing supply bid has put pressure on Granada and Carlton, which must reduce their holdings in ITN from 36 per cent to a maximum of 20 per cent each by the end of the year to meet government ownership limits. The excessive stakes were the result of takeovers by Granada and Carlton of LWT and Central respectively.

But the ITN contract negotiations are scheduled to begin only in 1996. There are no plans to bring the talks forward, despite the uncertainty surrounding the share sale.

An insider at Granada said HTV and YTT, both of which have complained to the ITC about the ITN news service on the basis both of quality and cost, are merely trying to drive down the price of ITN shares to buy them on the cheap.

"The companies have no intention of subscribing to Sky News. This is just a campaign to force a lower price from ITN for its news coverage or to drive down the price of ITN shares," the source said. It was also suggested that HTV and YTT may be trying to force the sellers to dump shares directly into the market, in order to buy stakes at lower prices later.

Bank to tighten derivatives trade

DIANE COYLE
Economics Correspondent

The Bank of England will shortly be asking banks to report additional information on their trade in derivatives to strengthen its supervision of the controversial financial products.

Following the Barings report, a senior director of every City bank will have to sign all supervisory returns to the Bank and approve the theoretical models their traders use in assessing the risk of derivatives.

Banks make widely different assessments of the risks involved in a particular type of derivative, over-the-counter options, according to an article in the Bank's forthcoming *Quarterly Bulletin*.

They therefore charge a wide range of prices for such trades, which have been the culprit in losses made by several international groups including Procter & Gamble, Metalgesellschaft and Gibsons Greetings.

Reporting the results of a survey of banks involved in this trade earlier this year, the authors say the banks were aware of the uncertainty involved in assessing the risk of OTC options, "but it is an issue which the Bank, as a supervisor, will need to continue to monitor".

An OTC option is a contract tailor-made for the customer, offering the right to buy or sell an underlying asset at a pre-set price on or before a certain date. Companies can use options to hedge the risk involved in other transactions, but when the strategy goes wrong the losses can be limitless.

As there is no readily available information about how the risk of OTC options is assessed, the Bank of England asked 35 banks in London about their practices. "It is important for the Bank of England to know how the banks that it is supervising price and manage these products, since for many they are a significant and growing part of their business," the *Bulletin* article says.

The survey allowed it to pick out the banks that were pricing their OTC options very differently from their competitors, and give them closer scrutiny. The article says: "On the supervisory side, the survey was useful in identifying several banks that were pricing products very differently from the rest of the market."

Banks trading in derivatives will be required to provide additional information about their activities to comply with the EU's capital adequacy directive, which comes into force on 1 January. Banks will have to allocate capital according to risk and will be forced to report their trading books in detail.

They will also be compelled to use methods for measuring derivatives risks and pricing the contracts that are approved by the Bank of England.

The new requirements will be costly, but banks recognise that they have little choice but to comply.

£500m Welsh plan at National Power

MARY FAGAN
Industrial Correspondent

National Power, the generator bidding £2.8bn for Southern Electric, will safeguard or create more than 1,350 jobs thanks to a £500m investment in the conversion of a South Wales power station.

The lion's share of the outlay, at the Pembroke oil-fired station, will be for equipment including sulphur scrubbing systems and special burners to clean up emissions from the plant to meet tight pollution regulations.

The power plant is to burn orimulsion, which environmentalists have described as the world's dirtiest fuel.

The project is subject to planning consent from the Government and final authorisation from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution. The conversion would protect 250 existing full-time jobs at Pembroke and create a further 100. In addition it would employ more than 1,000 people during the construction period.

Keith Henry, National Power's chief executive, said: "The future of the plant relies entirely on getting the go-ahead. The cost of the fuel makes it very competitive and I believe that this marks a very positive step in the development of the UK energy industry."

Mr Henry said National Power hopes to go ahead next year with a fifth combined-cycle gas turbine power station at Staythorpe in Nottinghamshire. The company has two CCGTs in operation, one about to come on stream and a fourth under construction alongside an existing plant at Didcot in Oxfordshire.

Commenting on the takeover bid, Mr Henry rejected suggestions that National Power would try to buy other regional electricity firms if it won Southern Electric.

He said the company planned to become a national supplier of electricity once the market opened up to competition in 1998, but added: "I believe we can do all we want with Southern. I can honestly say that I am not looking at any other regional firm."

Nomura 'holds merger talks with Daiwa'

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
Tokyo

A likely merger between Sumitomo Bank and the scandal-stricken Daiwa Bank may also involve the leading Japanese brokerage, Nomura Securities, forming the biggest financial conglomerate in the world.

Japanese newspapers yesterday quoted unnamed sources close to Nomura, who claimed that the brokerage had already held talks with Daiwa aimed at eventually setting up a joint holding company. On Friday, Daiwa and Sumitomo admitted that a merger was possible, after the US regulatory authorities ordered Daiwa to close all its US operations following the alleged cover-up of $1.1bn (£690m) bond trading losses.

The banks insist that detailed talks have not yet begun, but reports suggest that a union is likely, possibly as early as autumn 1996. The proposed bank would be easily the world's biggest, with total capital of ¥62,000bn (£380bn), compared with a combined ¥52,700bn for the merger of Mitsubishi Bank and the Bank of Tokyo, which will formally take place in April.

As the only one of the Japanese commercial banks licensed to carry out trust business, Daiwa is an attractive prospect for a potential suitor. The new institution would have a wider line of business than any other Japanese institution, and its formation would be likely to have a profound effect on the banking sector, with competitors forced to revise corporate strategies and consider their own mergers to survive.

The Finance Ministry and Bank of Japan are said to approve of the merger, although various obstacles remain, above all the 24 criminal charges brought against Daiwa by US prosecutors on Friday. Daiwa has accepted the order to wind up its US operations by the end of February, but it has denied the allegations of a cover-up or systematic illegal trading. Last week it rejected a plea-bargaining offer from prosecutors and, if each of the 24 charges is individually contested, the prospect of an early merger would recede.

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Four reasons why base rates could be cut

GAVYN DAVIES

'Several factors have tipped the argument on base rates in the optimists' favour, at least for a while'

I somewhat surprised myself last week by agreeing with the majority of my colleagues on the Treasury Forecasting Panel that some easing in monetary policy might be desirable in the next few months. This change of view came both from recent evidence about inflation pressures in the economy, and also from being persuaded by some of the arguments advanced by Patrick Minford and Tim Congdon at the Panel meetings.

More of that later, but first what future is there for the Panel itself? By the end of this year, the original seven members will be down to three, partly because of the rotation system of enforced retirements, and partly because of career changes. The Chancellor will shortly need to make some new appointments to take the Panel through the election, or else wrap up the institution altogether.

Ever since the press first dubbed us the "wise men", there has been a strong undercurrent of derision from some quarters. The *Guardian* established an alternative Panel consisting solely of women. This was presumably to make a point about sexism, which I thought wholly valid, but sadly, like most gimmicks, it sank without trace. Others seemed more affronted by the "wise", and desperate to prove they had not read the Panel's terms of reference, told us to stick to forecasting, and leave policy advice to others.

Meanwhile, the Panel did not get off to a good start, with attention being drawn to a public dogfight between members on the rather obscure topic of the nature of the "LM" curve in Keynesian economics. Not surprisingly, when Ken Clarke arrived, he seemed unconvinced that this sort of thing was a good use of public money. (Actually, the cost is *de minimis*, other than the considerable use of senior officials' time in meetings and drafting.) Ever since, the Panel's future has seemed somewhat uncertain.

Drafting sessions when reports are being prepared can be as painful as pulling teeth, and this often shows in the finished product. Some of the early reports were little more than six or seven disparate views stitched together. But the 1995 reports have seen an improvement. The two special topics discussed this year – European Monetary Union and the framework of domestic monetary policy – have not produced unanimous reports, but at least they attempted to confront the main areas of disagreement among economists on crucial questions. As far as I am aware, the Panel is the only forum in this country where economists of different persuasions are forced to try to reconcile differing approaches, rather than throwing darts at each other across an unbridged intellectual divide.

This year's reports have produced clear majority recommendations on a series of important issues. Four out of six members recommended against UK membership of EMU in its current form. The same number recommended that the Bank of England should be given autonomy in setting interest rates, within the constraints of the inflation objective set by the Government. Five out of six opposed cuts in income tax in the Budget. And all six said that interest rates should come down if the fiscal stance is left broadly unchanged after the Chancellor's November package. If not full unanimity, then certainly not the undisciplined cacophony of which the Panel is often accused.

This brings us back to monetary policy and inflation. Patrick Minford and, to a lesser extent, Tim Congdon have been arguing throughout the life of the Panel that inflation would remain very subdued for several more years. Though both are seen as "monetarists", and both believe that disinflationary forces are in the ascendant at present, there are crucial differences between them.

The Minford view is that the Thatcherite supply side reforms of the past 15 years have greatly increased the output potential of the economy, and there is chronic underemployment in the labour market. He therefore calls for large cuts in taxes and base rates to take advantage of these supply side gains. The Congdon view is that there is no real evidence of large supply side gains, but that output is some distance below trend. He is opposed to further fiscal easing, but believes base rates could be reduced without jeopardising the Government's inflation target.

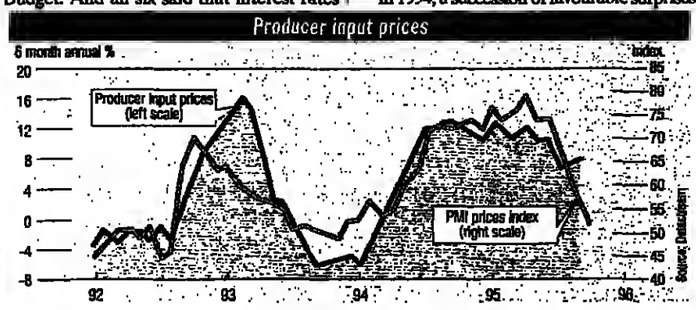
In 1994, a succession of favourable surprises on the retail prices front seemed to strengthen the optimists' view of the inflation process, but this year their RPI forecasts have proved too low. The optimists vehemently opposed the 1.5 per cent rise in base rates last year, without which the increase in underlying inflation this year would undoubtedly have been much more pronounced. So it is far from clear that their view has been fully vindicated.

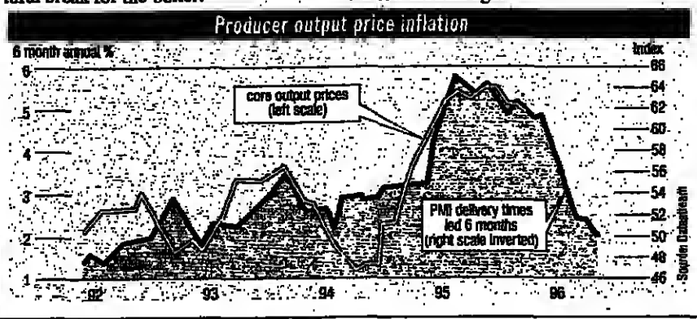
Nevertheless, several factors have tipped the argument on base rates in the optimists' favour, at least for a while. First, growth in the economy has slowed in response to last year's monetary tightening. Although this has only pushed GDP growth fractionally below trend so far, the build-up in stocks has reached worrying proportions, and there is a rising possibility of a pause in activity for a couple of quarters as these stocks are shed.

Second, there has been some evidence of improved underlying performance in the labour market. The Goldman Sachs wage equation suggests average earnings should by now be increasing at an annual rate of about 5 per cent, given the decline in unemployment. In fact, earnings have risen only 3.5 per cent, a difference which might indicate a structural break for the better.

Third, several lead indicators for price inflation have started to improve sharply, even though the recorded inflation rate continues to rise. The graphs show the relationship between producer prices and the purchasing manager's index (PMI), a monthly business survey. The prices component of the PMI dropped from 57.5 in September to 52.5 in October, the lowest reading since November 1993, which would be consistent with an easing in producer input price inflation towards zero in coming months. More importantly, the PMI figures on delivery times suggest producer output price inflation will drop sharply in the early part of next year. This increases the likelihood that retail price inflation will peak by the middle of 1996.

Fourth, the Cabinet seems to have reached agreement last week on public spending plans for 1996/97, which will roughly freeze the real total of spending for another year. Though these plans will be hard to hit in a pre-election period (much harder than the Tory Party seems to imagine), they should ensure that the fiscal stance will tighten next year, even after £3bn of tax cuts. All this makes a small base rate cut much less risky than it seemed a few months ago.





Axminster, enthusiasm and the Conservative Party are at the heart of things for the dyslexic who once wanted to be a barrister

Carpet king continues a long roll

Man of many roles: Sir Philip Harris, innovator, ideas man and skilled persuader, at one his many retail outlets Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

THE MONDAY INTERVIEW

SIR PHILIP HARRIS

Sir Philip Harris is sitting in the boardroom of his company's head office in Rainham, Essex, but finding it difficult to stay still. One minute he is bouncing up to show off a new shop design, the next he is dashing out to ask his secretary for photographs.

"What do you think of this design then? See what we've done with these signs. We've really perked them up with a hit of yellow ... mmm," he adds, agreeing with himself.

He talks quickly with the enthusiasm of the born salesman and is in bouncy form. His carpet business is on a roll and so too, he believes, is his other great love – the Conservative Party, for which he is a key fundraiser.

Carpets first. As the Axminster king of Britain, Sir Philip had already made one carpeting fortune when he secured £70m from the sale of Harris Queensway in 1988. Now 53, he is doing it all again with Carpetright, a rapidly expanding carpet group whose low prices and high volumes have helped it snatch a 14 per cent share of the UK carpet market.

He is now rolling out a new larger format Carpet Depot with which he hopes to build the group's share to 20 per cent.

As for the Conservatives, Sir Philip has been enthused by the Tory Party conference and the recent dinner at Claridges to celebrate the 70th birthday of Baroness Thatcher, who awarded him his knighthood in 1985. He has continued his top-level connections. John Major and his wife, Norma, were guests at his villa in the south of the France over the summer.

He says: "The economy is improving all the time. Unemployment is coming down and we have a government that is listening. I think the 5,000 more policeman on the beat is very exciting."

Earlier this year he was taking £5 bets that the Tories would win the next election. "I'd double that now," he says. As deputy chairman of the party's treasury committee he is helping to build a £22m fighting fund at Central Office for the next election. The party's troublesome overdraft is down to less than £10m, he says.

A skilled persuader, Sir Philip was thought to have been instrumental in securing a £4m interest-free loan from Graham Kirkham, the wealthy head of DFS furniture, last year. Mr Kirkham last month raised £74m from the sale of shares in the company. He can expect another call from Sir Philip soon.

If he finds the time, that is. Sir Philip and his tight-knit management team have spent the past few months working on the Carpet Depot format which will be expanded aggressively.

Carpet Depot is a huge, warehouse-style store that stocks carpets starting at prices as low as £1.19 a square yard and up to around £50. This is upmarket territory not yet explored by Carpetright.

"What do you think?" he inquires, holding up an artist's impression of the new design, complete with dayglo orange shop front. "Good, isn't it? I think it's one of the best ideas I've had."

The first outlet opened in the Thurrock retail park in Essex in September and a further two have already been added. There will be eight by next year and 70 within four years. "It's going to take the department stores like John Lewis head on."

Formed in 1988 and floated on the stock market two years ago, Carpetright has already established a chain of more than 200 outlets and consistently bucked the sluggish retail trend with spectacular profits growth and a £20m cash pile.

"I spent six months looking at Europe but decided against it. France looked too tough and Germany was difficult to get into. So I've decided to concentrate on Britain.

"Everyone said Carpetright would run out of steam two years after we floated, but I think we're just about to gather steam." Initially, the plan was to build a chain of 200 stores. After new research he plans a chain of 250 outlets in Britain plus a further 10 in Northern Ireland.

Carpetright has been opening a new outlet every 12 days and the introduction of Carpet Depot will be its third format. There will be no more, Sir Philip assures.

The original Carpetright stores remain the core, with 190 outlets and growing. Earlier this year the group started opening Premier Carpets concessions in branches of *MFI* and Sainsbury's Homebase. So far there are 10 outlets, but this will grow to 120 within four years.

Carpet Depot is also going to get the rapid roll-out treatment. A chain of 70 is planned over the next four years.

However there are concerns in the City that the new format will cannibalise the core Carpetright chain. Sir Philip dismisses these worries: "Carpetright is still the big earner. We won't neglect that. But the Depot format is different and if we didn't do it someone else would."

He has a reputation as a tough employer. Under-performers are weeded out quickly. Loyal henchmen stay for years. John Kitching, Carpetright's sales director, joined Sir Philip for a summer more than 20 years ago and has stayed.

He says: "His enthusiasm is infectious. That's what motivates people. If things go wrong he can be ruthless, but he's not one of those people who throw their weight about for the sake of it."

Aside from carpets and Conservatives, Sir Phil's main hobby is showjumping. He owns four top horses trained by David Broome and ridden by Michael Whittaker. Though privately owned rather than corporately sponsored, most have carpeting overtones such as Midnight Madness, the name of the Carpetright sale.

"I do a bit of riding but I haven't done any this year because I've been so busy. My real aim is for one of the horses to win an Olympic gold medal."

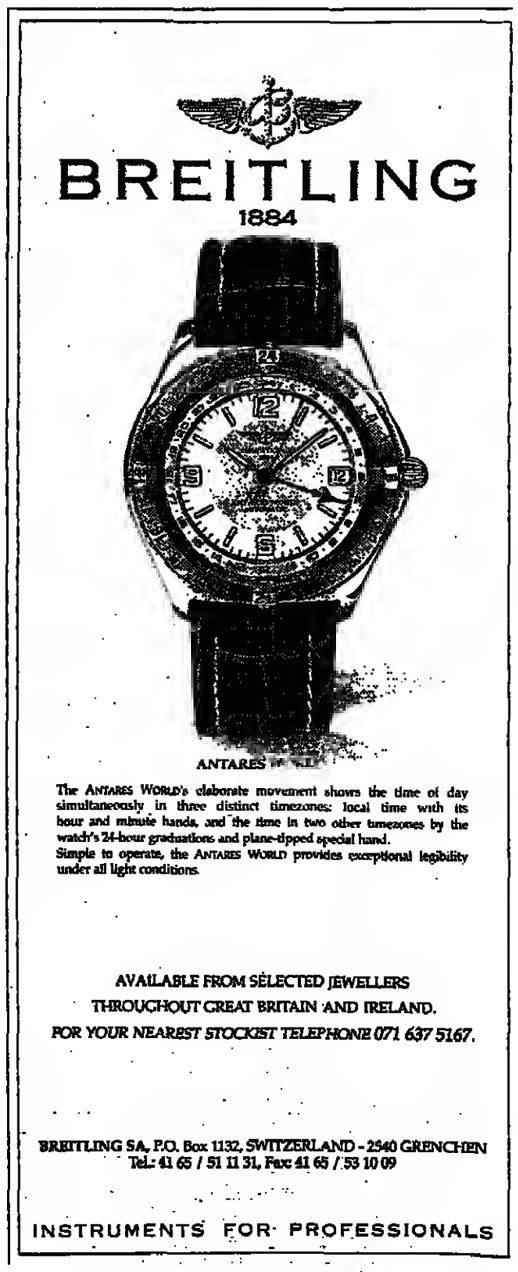
Few would deny him such expensive hobbies. Born in Streatham, south London, he left school at 15 to take over the family's three carpet shops after his father died. "I wanted to be a barrister, but I'm dyslexic so that wasn't possible. But I have no regrets."

He gradually expanded the chain through the 1960s and 1970s aided by the rise in home ownership and rising living standards. In 1977 he took over the Queensway furniture chain and in 1983 was named Hambro Businessman of the Year.

By 1988 when the business had expanded to include the Hamleys toy shops it was acquired by the doomed Lowndes Queensway buy-in.

Sir Philip denies that he is motivated by an ambition to make Carpetright bigger than Harris Queensway and prove wrong those in the City who question his record. But those close to him say he has a desire to prove he can do it all again.

Nigel Cope



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INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

As the Italian scandal season gets into its stride, a spiralling budget deficit is forcing a sharp change in what is acceptable

A sick economy shakes out the fake invalids

VIEW FROM ROME

It is scandal season in Italy again. In the past month, a Rome investigating magistrate has discovered that as many as 50,000 "fake invalids" are collecting disability benefits through cushy jobs in the public sector, particularly in the post office. And several thousand officers in the armed forces have confessed they have been systematically inflating their expense claims and accepting bribes to exempt the children of friends from national service.

The university system, too, is under investigation as evidence emerges of competitive exams for tenured professorships being rigged, and state money being wasted on faculties that provide plentiful jobs but are of negligible educational value.

At first sight, such reports seem no more than chaotic Italian business as usual. After all, anyone who knows the country is aware that such scams have been going on for years. But the fact that they are coming to light now is more than mere coincidence. These scandals bear witness to a tough fact of Italian life: that endemic corruption is a luxury the country can no longer afford.

Everyone knows Italy's public finances are hopelessly indebted. The state has been running a budget deficit for so long that overall public debt represents more than 120 per cent of GDP. Worse still, investor confidence in Italy is so shaky that the Treasury is forced to service nearly two-thirds of this debt through short-term bonds. It is a perilous exercise, since the government is having to repay investors faster than it can afford to and has no alternative but to issue yet more short-term bonds to cover its shortfall.

> The bribes companies were expected to pay were too expensive

This is clearly an untenable situation, which explains the single-mindedness of the Prime Minister, Lamberto Dini, in bringing the deficit rapidly under control. In April he made an initial L20,000bn (£809m) worth of cuts through tax increases and reductions in public spending. Two months later he finalised a reform of the bloated pensions system, which had been eating up a staggering 20 per cent of GDP. His preoccupation now is to get parliament to approve the 1996 budget with its L32,500bn in further savings before his non-political administration falls victim to inter-party squabbling.

But the budget is not the only issue. Italy is being forced to confront every area of public life and re-examine the extravagant habits of the past. The process started three years ago, when the "clean hands" team of magistrates in Milan brought down an entire generation of politicians with their anti-corruption investigations.

Sweeping away the old order was not prompted by any great rethinking of ethical standards in public life: the bribes large companies were expected to pay politicians and their parties had become too expensive. With Italy hitting a recession along with the rest of Europe, it was no longer reasonable to pay as much as 60 per cent of a contract's value in kick-backs. The only recourse was to denounce the politicians.

Three years on, the revolution in Italian public life has shifted focus. Before, the target was larceny on a grand scale – politicians who stashed gold ingots under their mattresses and siphoned off chunks of the country's GDP into anonymous bank accounts in the Far East.

Now, after a period of high instability, it is institutions beyond the strict sphere of politics that are under attack. The investigation into the fake invalids at the post office, for example, was partly motivated by the urgent need to modernise a notoriously wasteful and inefficient public service. Political sources suggest that the magistrates may have been tipped off by post office managers looking for a way to by-pass the powerful trade unions and cut as much as a quarter of the 200,000-strong workforce.

The need to eradicate waste and privilege is causing consternation in many areas of Italian life. Workers at La Scala opera house in Milan, for example, are threatening to call off the opening night of the new season because they see the management's attempts to cut costs as an attack not just on their lifestyles, but on the very culture of arts administration in Italy. So cushioned have they been for so long, they do not understand why the state is no longer prepared to plunge billions of lire into opera each year and get back less than a tenth of its investment.

The changing mentality is beginning to have an effect on the economic big league. Two months ago Gianni Agnelli, chairman of Fiat, and the head of the Milanese merchant bank Mediobanca, Enrico Cuccia, announced a plan to create the country's second-biggest industrial conglomerate by merging two loss-making groups under their control, Montedison-Ferruzzi and Gemina.

> The changing mentality is affecting the big league

The deal had all the hallmarks of traditional Italian business practice, a piece of economic engineering worked out between old friends behind closed doors. The political establishment was not consulted; neither were minority shareholders. A decade ago, they would have got away with it because they were powerful enough to block all opposition. But times have changed.

Within a few weeks, magistrates and tax inspectors were crawling all over Gemina after discovering an L800bn hole in the books of the company's publishing subsidiary, Rizzoli, and the merger deal was called off. This week Mediobanca received another slap in the face after it bought more than 10 per cent of the shares in Montedison-Ferruzzi's holding company on the sly. The Milan bourse regulator took everyone by surprise by forcing Mediobanca to make a formal takeover offer and buy 10.8 per cent more of its shares on the open market.

Italy's revolution is far from complete. It still has no stable political structure, and its economy is crying out for proper regulation. But these recent episodes suggest a start is being made. Penury may not be the noblest reason for cleaning up public life, but as long as the drive to improve public finances persists, it seems there is a real chance of bringing about lasting change.

Andrew Gumbel

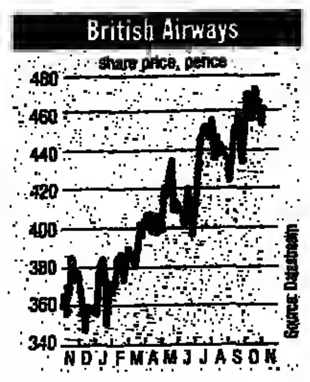
business

THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

Companies
A busy fortnight for company results kicks off with interim figures from **British Airways**, expected to show half-time profits of £425m, up a fifth.
Finals: Fleming Chinese Inv, Lynx Holdings, Stratagem Group.
Interims: Associated British Foods, Blacks Leisure, British Airways, Business Post Group, Johnson Fry Sec Utilities, Prowting, Safeland, Seton Healthcare, Whitecroft, Voyageur European Smaller.
Annual meetings: Goodwin.

British Airways



Economics
Figures for industrial output are expected to show a modest increase in September. Manufacturing production is likely to have been flat or risen only slightly – in line with recent survey evidence – but the recovery in the oil sector should have continued, boosting the total.
Statistics: index of production (Sep), cyclical indicators of the UK economy (Oct).

TOMORROW

Companies
Profits before tax of almost £400m from **Marks & Spencer**, up a tenth, will provide the customary reassuring message after the recent jitters on the high street. Questions regarding sales growth and the returns from new space are also likely to be raised, however. In July, the company confirmed trading remained difficult and said the weather was unhelpful.
Finals: Allied Domecq, Anglian Water, Broadgate Inv Trust, Mercury Keystone Investment Trust, MMT Computing, Saracen Value Trust, Scottish National Trust, UPF Group, WEW Group.
Interims: Amersham International, Bath Press Group, Boustead, British Petroleum (Q3), British Sky Broadcasting (Q1), Capital Gearing Trust, Hartlepool Water, London Insurance Market, Marks & Spencer, Mercury Asset Management, Montanaro UK Smaller, National Power, Powerscreen International, Saracen Value Trust.
Economics
Advance energy data (Oct).

WEDNESDAY

Companies
BAT is expected to have done relatively well in a US tobacco market which has seen flagging volumes but resilient margins. Financial services will benefit from a smoothed return at Eagle Star.
Overall pre-tax profits are forecast by NatWest Securities to improve 22 per cent to £1.76bn in the nine months to September.
Finals: Gartmore European, Hambro Insurance Service, Lowland Inv, Lyons Irish Holdings.
Interims: BAT Industries (Q3), Electrocomponents, First Ireland Inv Co, Fleming Far Eastern, German Investment Trust, Henderson Administration Group, Scottish Power, Vosper Thornycroft.
Annual meetings: Adwest Group, Cantors China Inv & Development, DCS Group, International Biotechnology, Thorntons, FW Thorpe, TNT. EGMs: Thorntons

Economics
The Bank of England issues its quarterly inflation report, putting interest rate policy into the spotlight.
The Bank is expected to express less concern about inflationary pressures than it did in its August report because of the accumulated evidence that growth has slowed. However, it would be a surprise if it completely retreated from its advice that the Government will not meet its inflation target without an eventual increase in base rates.
The most recent speeches on the economy by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank, and Mervyn King, its chief economist, said the balance of evidence still pointed to higher rates.
Statistics: Index of production for Scotland (Q2), Welsh Agricultural Statistics No 17 (1995), CBI/BSL regional trends survey (Oct), Bank of England inflation report (Nov), Bank of England quarterly bulletin (Q3).

THURSDAY

Companies
Second-quarter and interim results will provide further evidence of the pressures on BT's core business. All eyes will be on the dividend, where the market is looking for fresh guidance on future growth rates. Pre-tax profits of about £1.62bn will be about 9 per cent ahead of last year's first half.

UK industrial production

Finals: Asset Management Investment Co, Bett Brothers, Burton Group, Orb Estates, Willis Corroon (Q4), Villiers Group.
Interims: Appleby Westward, British Telecom (Q2), Cedardata, Central European, B Elliott, *First Ireland* Inv (amd), Northumbrian Water Group, Porter Chadburn, Regalian Properties, Royal Insurance Holdings (Q3), Staveley Industries, Umeco, Warner Howard.
Annual meetings: Everest Foods, Throgmorton Dual Trust, Throgmorton 1,000 Trust, Tor IT, Trafford Park Estates, Waterman Partnership, Zambia Copper.

Economics
Today brings the key overseas statistic, US producer prices for October. Most analysts expect them to have been nearly flat.
Statistics: New Earnings Survey Part E: 1995, analyses by region and by age group, New Earnings Survey Part F: 1995. Distribution of hours; joint distribution of earnings and hours; analyses of earnings and hours for part-time women and employees, labour market trends, travel trends.

FRIDAY

Companies
After the disappointments of the first half, third-quarter figures from **Unilever** will have benefited from the company's strong position in ice-cream. This might allow for upgrades to full-year profits. For the first nine months, profits of £786m, up 9 per cent, are expected.
Finals: J Bibby & Sons.
Interims: Banner Homes, Investment Co, Quadrant Group, Somic, Unilever.

Economics
The CBI's distributive trades survey will give a snapshot of the state of the high street last month. Latest official retail sales figures showed scarcely any recovery in September after a depressed August, so the survey will be scrutinised for signs of improvement.

SHARE PRICE DATA

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as x percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.
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INTEREST RATES

UK		**Germany**		**US**		**Japan**	
Base	6.75%	Discount	3.50%	Prime	8.75%	Discount	0.50%
France		Lombard	5.50%	Discount	5.25%	**Belgium**	
Intervention	5.00%	**Canada**		Fed Funds	5.75%	Discount	3.50%
Italy		Prime	7.75%	**Spain**		Central	4.00%
Discount	9.00%	Discount	6.18%	10-Day Repo	9.25%	**Switzerland**	
Netherlands		**Denmark**		**Sweden**		Discount	2.00%
Advances	3.70%	Discount	5.00%	Repo (Ave)	8.91%	Lombard	4.125%

BANKS, MERCHANT

Mkt Value £M	Stock	Weekly Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
163.9	Cater Allen	472	-1	7.7	7.1	2081
377.1	Close Bros	314	+2	8.6	-	2168
218.6	Gerrard&Nat	448	+5	6.4	14.2	2686
356.0	Hambros	201	+1	4.7	50.7	2812
23.5	Joseph Leo	443	+20	0.5	24.7	3060
29.3	King & Shaxson	114	-1	9.9	6.9	3068
21.9	Rea Bros	45	-	2.8	13.6	3785
2,020+	Schroders	1338	+43	1.3	19.1	3838
208.5	Singer &Fried	108	-	4.4	11.0	4028
27.9	Union	105	-	3.6	-	4353
25.1	Wintrust	295	-	4.8	18.9	4524

BANKS, RETAIL

Mkt Value £M	Stock	Weekly Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
8,268.6	ABN Amro	£27¼	+¾	4.7	10.8	-
7,075.2	Abbey Nat	536	+2	4.5	16.7	8411
2,173.1	Allied Irish	328	+7	[illegible]	0.5	1354
223.7	Anglo Irish	65	+2	8.9	13.1	1355
14,814.8	Asahi	638	-22	9.7	-	3049
3,793.8	Aus NZ	273	+11	5.1	8.2	-
1,795.1	Banco Cia	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	-	2202
4,454.1	Banco Bilbao	£10⅝	[illegible]	4.8	8.8	-
4,292.3	Banco de Snt	£26⅝	-	4.9	12.7	-
12,127.5	Barclays 05	750	+13	3.8	10.2	1754
13,213.8	Br America	£37¼	+1½	-	-	1744
2,011.2	Br Ireland	423	+4	0.8	8.8	1360
2,356.8	Bk of Scot	251	-	3.1	11.1	1742
33,150.9	Dai-Ichi K	£10⅝	+½	0.5	-	-
13,607.4	Deutsche 05	£28⅝	-	2.6	-	-
152.3	Esp Santo	£7⅛	-	11.0	-	5167
34,319.0	Fuji Bank	£11⅞	[illegible]	0.4	-	-
16,525.2	HSBC (HK)	931	+18	3.6	12.1	2796
8,108.8	HSBC Hldgs	943	+16	3.7	12.3	2776
10,430.4	Lloyds	765	+26	4.2	12.2	2171
10,700.4	Mitsubishi Tst	693	+50	0.5	14.6	-
35,309.1	Mitsubishi	£13¼	[illegible]	0.4	-	-
7,624.8	Nat Aus Bk	548	+18	2.0	8.8	-
11,133.1	Nat West	638	+11	4.4	8.8	3463
125.0	Oatmeam 05	525	-	6.6	3.4	-
4,128.9	Ryl Bk Scot	511	+1	4.6	12.3	3874
20,786.8	Sakura Bank	£8⅞	[illegible]	[illegible]	40.3	-
5,053.7	Stan Chartrd	521	+21	2.8	13.1	4034
24,997.7	Sumitomo Bk	£11⅞	[illegible]	0.8	-	-
5,806.3	TSB	379	+8	8.9	18.8	4320
4,794.8	Westpac	262¾	+7	2.2	-	-

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES

A Good, perhaps Great Thing

Greg Wood bids a fond farewell to the season of Lammtarra

It has taken eight months, but at last the 1995 Flat season offers us a certainty, though sadly not one on which any bookmaker will lay bets. After a campaign which was memorable both on and off the track, the sure thing is that today's rogue turf card at Folkestone will be a downbeat, almost squalid, way to bring it to a close.

It may be a little reassuring to find that the British Horseracing Board, impressive in so many ways since its inception, is still capable of old-fashioned howlers like closing a season on a Monday afternoon in the middle of oowhere. Yet 1995 deserves better. It overcame the premature loss of its supposed major star, Celtic Swing, and kept its followers enthralled right up to the Arc and beyond. All in all, it was a Good Thing.

Of course, 1996 could yet be the year of Swing, with Peter Savill's coovalesceot French Derby winner still, officially at least, on the right side of a stud farm's whitewashed paddock rail. However you look at it, though, his hard-fought victory at Chantilly was oot that of an *all-time* champion, and the brilliance which we know exists within him was given instead to *1994*. His marked preference for an easy surface must also count against him in any comparisoo with Mill Reef or Nijinsky, but here at least the 1995 season offers a credible alternative.

There seems to be an undercurrent of prejudice against the idea that Lammtarra was one of the best middle-distance Flat horses in living memory. One reason, perhaps, is that he was *not* Celtic Swing. Another, more reasonable, is that he departed for the paddocks *after* just four visits to a racecourse. He did not eveo stay arouod to lead the line in the Breeders' Cup at Belmont, (and in view of how close Freedom Cry, the Arc runner-up, went to winning the Turf, that may be a decision which Sheikh Mohammed now regrets). Nor did he win his races by 10 lengths going away.

But in a sport which values success above all else, any rational assessment of Lammtarra's achievements must place him alongside the very best. He completed a treble – Derby, King George and Arc – which eluded all but Mill Reef before him. He did so, what's more, on going which ranged from fast at Epsom to heavy at Longchamp, and won both from well off the pace and, in Paris, after hitting the front two out. He was courage on four chestnut legs, and we will miss him.

Thanks to Lammtarra, Sheikh Mohammed was finally able to lead in a *Derby winner at Epsom*, though the colours were those of his nephew. The Sheikh's Godolphin operation was the dominant – indeed almost the only – force in the year's big races, even if Saeed bin Suroor, whose name is on their training licence, was denied the championship by John Dunlop, with nine times as many wins.

Willie Carson's clever ride on Bahri in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot secured the title for the Arundel stable, but in most other respects the season was painted with the royal blue of Godolphin. Halling, So Factual, Vettori, Moonshell added to Lammtarra's efforts to secure an incredible haul of Group One successes.

Away from the track too Sheikh Mohammed made the headlines, as his long association with Henry Cecil drew to a typically British close, with polite regrets pouring oil on the *bitter waters beneath*. Not, of course, that anyone wished to see 10 rounds of bare-knuckle brawling oo Newmarket High Street. Well, not much.

The season also brought a final acknowledgement that Lester Piggott's career in the saddle could go no further, as the Loog Fellow hung up his boots within sight of his 60th birthday, which he celebrated yesterday. Two generations below him, Lanfranco Dettori is still the champion, and the only rider who looks likely to be champion in the foreseeable future.

And at Goodwood in July, we watched Lord Wyatt, the chairman of the Tote, admit that he was unable to name even half a dozen of the horses competing on one of the year's most important afternoons.

The saddest thing was, no-one seemed particularly surprised.

The jumpers held sway on Saturday as Tug Of Peace (dark colours) bides his time before pouncing to take Wincanton's Badger Beer Chase Photograph: Adam Scott

THE LEADING FIGURES ON THE FLAT THIS SEASON

TRAINERS

	Money won	Wins	Runs	Profit to £1 stake	Last 14 days	Days since win
J Dunlop	£2,017,510	126	625	-£102.24	6/34	2
Saeed bin Suroor	£1,877,485	14	42	+£30.91	0/0	51
M Stoute	£1,357,919	73	415	-£78.04	3/16	1
R Hannon	£1,211,243	110	1,032	-£299.09	7/53	5
M Johnston	£1,132,185	105	737	-£140.89	2/25	8
J Gosden	£1,111,507	84	394	-£66.03	4/20	3
B Hills	£994,907	74	465	-£94.23	2/12	2
H Cecil	£974,702	83	336	-£44.56	7/19	2
P Cole	£887,231	77	511	-£53.05	4/23	1
C Brittain	£795,455	49	487	-£50.77	2/23	12
G Wragg	£653,575	33	180	+£51.49	1/9	2
P Chapple-Hyam	£636,539	37	233	-£96.87	0/8	19
D Loder	£596,881	45	146	+£4.06	0/6	16
L Cumani	£572,546	39	234	-£91.37	0/8	37
M Channon	£539,239	71	583	-£143.46	0/12	34
R Akehurst	£529,353	52	435	-£115.07	1/12	15
W R Hern	£524,731	21	124	-£33.50	0/3	23
R Charlton	£512,257	40	241	-£52.30	1/10	2
I Balding	£476,739	41	369	-£129.05	0/4	29
J Berry	£467,035	89	684	-£345.56	1/16	3
G Lewis	£444,923	40	326	-£59.38	0/15	26
Mrs M Reveley	£444,824	68	501	-£219.73	0/19	16
Mrs J Ramsden	£423,767	56	402	-£90.35	0/14	16

JOCKEYS

	Wins	Rides	%	Profit to £1 stake	Last 14 days	Rides since win
L Dettori	212	985	22	-£124.02	2/23	13
K Darley	148	912	16	-£161.63	5/46	8
J Weaver	144	958	15	-£195.32	0/0	25
W Carson	139	714	19	-£157.89	2/16	5
Pat Eddery	125	647	19	-£96.78	2/10	0
T Quinn	111	828	13	-£194.74	5/22	8
J Reid	101	689	15	-£126.73	3/35	12
R Cochrane	96	782	13	-£153.51	2/32	5
K Fallon	89	628	14	-£30.82	0/18	19
W Ryan	87	563	15	-£150.84	4/21	D
J Carroll	78	611	12	-£173.42	2/20	6
M Hills	74	518	14	+£58.17	6/23	1
D Holland	71	462	15	+£10.20	0/0	10
R Hills	70	477	15	-£134.75	9/28	0
M Roberts	64	438	15	+£2.22	1/2	0
G Carter	64	640	10	-£281.80	0/20	39
R Hughes	62	494	13	-£66.39	2/27	13
B Doyle	62	548	11	-£64.43	3/17	4
D Harrison	62	631	10	-£216.80	2/16	3
W R Swinburn	60	420	14	-£112.82	0/1	4
G Duffield	57	594	10	-£249.29	2/32	14
Paul Eddery	56	585	10	-£238.18	0/9	12
S Sanders	54	524	10	-£56.83	0/14	15

Trigger drawn low in Melbourne field

Double Trigger and Vintage Crop run for *Europe in the* 135th Melbourne Cup at Flemington tomorrow.

The Mark Johnston-trained Double Trigger has a favourable draw in six, although Johnston admitted: "I don't know what to make of it – I wouldn't have reacted any differently had we been drawn in one or 24." Double Trigger heads the handicap with 9st 7lb, a weight that no winner has carried since 1969.

Vintage Crop became the first Northern Hemisphere runner to capture the prize in 1993 and was seventh last year. His trainer, Dermot Weld, said: "I wouldn't say he is better than last *time but he is certainly as good.*"

Hamdan Al Maktoum's Jeune aims to become the first since 1975 to win in successive years. He was fourth to Nothin' Leica Dane in Saturday's Victoria Derby. Other familiar names are the former Johnstoo inmate Quick Ransom and Lanfranco Dettori, who rides Bullwinkle.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Douce Maison (Folkestone 4.00)
NB: Village Native (Folkestone 2.30)

FLEMINGTON – Tomorrow

4.20am FOSTER'S MELBOURNE CUP £975,000 added 2m Penalty Value £625,000

1 4111141 DOUBLE TRIGGER (38) M Johnston (GB) 5 9 7 — J Weaver 6
2 316544 JEUNE (3) P Hayes 7 8 4 — W Harris 17
3 0-14114 VINTAGE CROP (62) D Weld (Ir) 9 9 4 — M J Kinane 8
4 250200 THE PHANTOM CHANCE (10) J R Wheeler 6 9 D — R Vance 14
5 233207 IT'S ALL IN FUN (17) T McDonald D 8 10 — B Scriven 1
D 020021 DORIEMUS (17) D L Freedman 5 8 8 — D Oliver 23
7 311300 STONEY BAY (10) Mrs G Waterhouse 4 8 7 — D Beadman 21
8 103202 BULLWINKLE (10) M C Kent 5 8 5 — L Dettori 4
8 123402 COUNT CHIVAS (17) D Sellwood 4 8 5 — R Griffiths 7
10 000056 DAACHA (3) J Meagher 6 8 5 — B Prebble 15
11 550300 DESERT CHILL (3) B Laming D 8 5 — C Munce 15
12 400001 DOUBLE TAKE (6) R Dowling 7 8 3 — J Didham 12
13 520665 GOSSIPS (3) L Corstens 5 8 3 — A Matthews 18
14 000023 QUICK RANSOM (10) D Freedman 7 8 3 — L Dittman 13
15 605303 SIR KINGI (13) N Eales 7 8 3 — P Hutchinson 10
16 025025 FEW ARE CHOSEN (3) Mrs G Waterhouse 4 8 2 — L Cassidy 2
17 130120 YES INDEED (17) Mrs G Waterhouse D 8 2 — R Caddigan 20
18 030610 STORM (3) D Freedman 4 8 D — G Hall 16
19 161003 BEAUX ART (17) D Edwards 4 7 13 — D Taggart D
20 052321 COACHWOOD (3) D Freedman 5 7 11 — B York 11
21 105102 DUPAIN (3) A Bell 4 7 8 — S Basler 5
22 211004 ELECTRONIC (3) Mrs G Waterhouse 5 7 8 — G Boss 22
23 031111 NOTHIN' LEICA DANE (3) Mrs G Waterhouse 3 7 D — R Dye 18
– 23 declared –
Race time is in GMT

BETTING: 4-1 Double Trigger, 7-1 Storm, 8-1 Jeune, Doriemus, 10-1 Count Chivas, Nothin' Leica Dane, Quick Ransom, Vintage Crop, 14-1 Few Are Chosen, 16-1 Beaux Arts, 20-1 others
1994: Jeune 5 8 13 W Harris 19.4-1 (D Hayes) 24 ran

FOLKESTONE

HYPERION
1.00 Jerry Cutrona
1.30 SONGSHEET (nap)
2.00 Maple Burl (nb)
2.30 Village Native
3.00 Deceit The Second
3.30 Emma Grimes
4.00 Douce Maison

GOING: Good to Firm.
STALLS: Straight – stands side; round course – outside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 5f & 6f, high for 7f to 12f.
Right-hand, undulating course.
Course is 6m W of town off A20. Westenhanger station (service from London, Charing Cross) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club £12 (under-16s free); Tattersalls £8.50. CAR PARK: Free; Course Enclosure £4, plus £4 for each occupant.

SIS

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: R Hannon — 21 winners from 138 runners gives a success ratio of 15.2% and a loss to a £1-level stake of £23.35; R Akehurst — 30 winners, 108 runners, 18.5%, +£15.51; J Pearce — 13 winners, 48 runners, 27.1%, +£18.76; G Harwood — 13 winners, 62 runners, 25.1%, +£31.91.
LEADING JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery — 23 winners, 75 rides, 30.7%, -£6.41; T Quinn — 20 winners, 143 rides, 14%, +£57.49; Paul Eddery — 18 winners, 120 rides, 15.8%, +£13.66; G Duffield — 18 winners, 104 rides, 17.3%, -£5.17.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Miss Roberto *(1.00)*; Ballestro (visored) (3.00).
WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Pivotal (1.30) won at Newcastle on Monday; Fairy Knight (4.00) won at Redcar on Tuesday.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Milngavie (3.00) has been sent 298 miles by M Johnston from Middleham, N Yorks; Rose Of Glenn *(3.00) sent 231 miles by B Palling from Ystradowen,* S Glamorgan; Feeling Hope (3.30) sent 212 miles by M S Saunders from Haydon, Somerset; Duralock Fencer (1.00) sent 196 miles by P G Murphy from Portbury, Avon; St Kitts (3.00) sent 184 miles by W G M Turner from Corton Denham, Somerset.

1.00 CUTLASS NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,400 added 2YO 6f 189yds Penalty Value £3,617

1 433 EUROBOX BOY (14) (N Cowellale) A Jarvis 9 8 — J Tate 12
2 6302 AL'S ALIBI (21) (The Sussex Stud Limited) W Muir D 7 — J Reid 18
3 346000 GALAPINO (16) (The Dayspring Company Limited) C Brittain 9 5 — M Henry (5) 8
4 42030 CASTAN (16) (James Hammett) J Dunlop D 4 — S Whitworth 6
5 631001 WORLDWIDE ELSIE (USA) (14) (D) (T J Dawson) R Harris 9 3 — A Mackay 5
6 000 SOLDIER MAK (12) (I A Low) A Hide 8 7 — W Woods 2
7 500 MONTECRISTO (27) (Lord Matthews) R Guest D 0 — E Guest 3
8 650 SILENT GUEST (17) (E B Rimmer) Sir Mark Prescott 9 0 — G Duffield 14
9 43456 BRECON (16) (D J Deer) P Cole 8 11 — T Quinn 8
10 6004 KNAVE (14) (Cheveley Park Stud) R Hannon 8 10 — Dane O'Neill (5) 1
11 000 GEE GEE TEE (27) (John Tackett) J Akehurst 8 8 — W Newnes 4
12 066 MISS ROBERTO (11) (Mrs M McCourt) Mrs M McCourt 8 8 — M Fenton 15
13 0-0032 JERRY CUTRONA (6) (BF) (Michael Hill) N Callaghan 8 8 — A Whelan (5) 10
14 0606 GET TOUGH (37) (Gravy Boys Racing) S Dow 8 8 — A Daly (7) 7
15 200050 DURALOCK FENCER (16) (Duralock (UK) Ltd) P Murphy 8 3 — R Waterfield (7) 13
16 00-00 PRIDE OF KASHMIR (23) (The New Recruits) P Harris 8 0 — F Norton 11
– 16 declared –

BETTING: 4-1 Jerry Cutrona, 9-2 Worldwide Elsie, 5-1 Al's Alibi, 6-1 Knave, 7-1 Castan, 8-1 Brecon, 10-1 Duralock Fencer, Eurobox Boy, Pride Of Kashmir, 12-1 Galapino, 14-1 others
1994: Mister Fire Eyes 2 8 6 B Doyle 14-1 (C Brittain) 18 ran

FORM GUIDE
Using Daunting Destiny as a yardstick there is little to choose between WORLDWIDE ELSIE and Jerry Cutrona. The latter was beaten a head by Daunting Destiny (set to give 12lb) at Redcar last Tuesday, while Worldwide Elsie got home by a length from Richard Hannon's colt at Leicester a fortnight back when set to receive 4lb. Worldwide Elsie concedes Jerry Cutrona 11lb today. The selection ran on strongly at Leicester and can confirm form with fourth-placed Knave (from the Daunting Destiny stable), who is allowed 6lb for three lengths. Al's Alibi looks a threat, having been inched out by Ageeb in a maiden auction over course and distance three weeks ago when drifting from 10-1 to double those odds. Castan, runner-up to the odds-on Wisam at Goodwood in May on his second run, was racing for the first time since a July Lingfield third behind Bedside Mail when in the ruck against Lunar Mist on the same track 18 days ago. He will strip fitter this time. With better luck in running, Galapino, instead of finishing third, would probably have won Mushahid's race at Doncaster in May on his second start, but has not shown much since. Selection: WORLDWIDE ELSIE

1.30 EPEE CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS C) £7,500 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value £5,493

1 01 PIVOTAL (7) (Cheveley Park Stud) Sir Mark Prescott 9 2 — G Duffield 8
2 02301 SINGING PATRIARCH (24) (Peter S Winfield) J Dunlop 9 2 — T Quinn 7
3 302056 ARCTIC ROMANCER (16) (D) (Abdulla Al Khalifa) G Lewis D 0 — A Whelan (5) 4
4 312161 TIMES OF TIMES (13) (D) (A S Reid) M Ryan 8 12 — C Rutter 1
5 513223 COMIC FANTASY (AUS) (14) (D) (BF) (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8 11 — J Reid 2
6 000006 MIDNIGHT COOKIE (7) (Ms S A Joyner) B Pearce 8 11 — Dane O'Neill (5) 6
7 4134 TO THE WHIRE (148) (D) (Pennine Partners) G L Moore 8 11 — S Whitworth D
8 D SMITHEREENS (37) (Major & Mrs Kennard and Partners) P Walwyn 8 8 — D Harrison 3
9 22 SONGSHEET (14) (Lord Matthews) R Guest 8 8 — M Henry (5) 5
– 9 declared –

BETTING: 9-4 Pivotal, 11-4 Songsheet, 7-2 Comic Fantasy, 5-1 Singing Patriarch, 7-1 Times Of Times, 10-1 Arctic Romancer, 20-1 Smithereens, To The Whire, 50-1 Midnight Cookie
1994: Musical Season 2 8 11 K Darley 3-1 (T D Barron) 10 ran

FORM GUIDE
PIVOTAL looked booked for further success after his Newcastle victory a week ago when he was always going well and ran on strongly to slam Dorek Amaam two and a half lengths after taking command inside the final furlong. That was over the stiff Newcastle six and there is no guarantee that Pivotal will be so effective at this minimum trip but Sir Mark Prescott's youngster deserves the benefit of the doubt. Songsheet, a length runner-up behind Music Gold on her introduction at York last month, again found one barring her way to success in Tadeo at Lingfield a fortnight ago. Rae Guest's filly is 5lb better with Comic Fantasy, who finished a length away third at the Surrey track, while Midnight Cookie, beaten out of sight in finishing last, was a dozen lengths adrift of Pivotal at Newcastle. Times Of Times gained the first of his six wins in an auction event here in July and he was also successful in a seller over the course the following month. Five of his wins have been at six and the other over seven and the minimum is on the sharp side for him. Singing Patriarch is another dropping down in distance after his six-furlong Catterick success last month, but he looks the type who can progress further. Selection: PIVOTAL

2.00 EBF BROADSWORD AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E) (DIV I) £4,300 added 2YO 6f Penalty Value £3,362.50

1 050 DORSPRING (109) (Dorspring Limited) C Brittain D 0 — M Henry (5) 5
2 000 MAPLE BURL (18) (G Stanberg) S Dow D 0 — J Williams 10
3 05 WHITE PLAINS (10) (Dein Ltd) M Bell 9 0 — M Fenton 3
4 D BLUE ADELAIDE (109) (Lord Portman) P Cole 8 9 — T Quinn 6
5 05 FARAWAY LASS (14) (J Rose) Lord Huntingdon 8 9 — D Harrison 11
8 5 LADY DIGNITY (193) (J Gamsey) P Makin 8 8 — R Cochrane 1
7 D LAST BUT NOT LEAST (18) (Keith Wills) 9 F Johnson Houghton 8 D — J Reid 9
8 LEARNING CURVE (L A Lanati) Sir Mark Prescott 8 9 — G Duffield 7
9 0 MRS KEEN (13) (J F Watson) Mrs M McCourt 8 9 — W Newnes 8
10 44U633 MRS MCBADGER (20) (Chris Badger) B Smart 8 9 — S Sanders 2
11 0 PERRYWINKLE WAY (14) (Mrs A King) Mrs A King 8 8 — A Garth 4
– 11 declared –

BETTING: 5-2 Faraway Lass, 3-1 Learning Curve, 4-1 White Plains, 11-2 Last But Not Least, 13-2 Maple Burl, 8-1 Mrs McBadger, 10-1 Blue Adelaide, 12-1 Lady Dignity, 20-1 others
1994: Charlie Sillett 2 9 0 M Hills 14-1 (B Hills) 17 ran

FORM GUIDE
In a race which will require little winning, it will come as no surprise to see LEARNING CURVE make a successful debut. Sir Mark Prescott's runner is by Archway (a smart sprinter for Vincent O'Brien) out of a mare by Mummy's Pet, so she should be able to go a bit. The pick of those with experience might be Faraway Lass, sixth of 18 behind Wildwood Flower at Leicester a fortnight ago, with Perrywinkle Way 17th, on only her second appearance and open to improvement. White Plains, well down the field behind Astor Place on his debut at Newmarket in September but not discredited when fifth (of eight) to Farhana on a return to Newmarket, looks sure to step up on that.
Selection: LEARNING CURVE

2.30 EBF BROADSWORD AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E) (DIV II) £4,300 added 2YO 6f Penalty Value £3,362.50

1 00 BILLADDIE (25) (Richard J Gurr) R Boss 9 D — W Woods 5
2 00 FARMOST (9) (W E Sturt) Sir Mark Prescott 8 D — G Duffield 1
3 D INAMINIT (39) (John Smallman) H Collingridge 9 D — J Quinn D
4 26 KINGS HARMONY (40) (Ten of Hearts) P Makin D 0 — R Cochrane 3
5 60 LITTLE PILGRIM (21) (Richard L Page) T Jones 9 0 — R Perham 10
6 02355 VILLAGE NATIVE (FR) (14) (A J Richards) K Cunningham-Brown 8 D — D Biggs 8
7 60 ALAKHLUN (20) (Mrs Dorothy Price) G Lewis 8 9 — S Whitworth 2
8 452360 BEARNAISE (16) (Lord Carnarvon) R Hannon 8 D — Dane O'Neill (5) 7
D 00 HADADABBLE (13) (The Fun Managers Partnership) Pat Mitchell 8 D — M Fenton 8
10 36 MAY QUEEN MEGAN (13) (S J Hanson) Mrs A King 8 8 — A Garth 4
– 10 declared –

BETTING: 5-2 Bearnaise, 7-2 Village Native, 9-2 Alakhlun, 6-1 Kings Harmony, May Queen Megan, 7-1 Little Pilgrim, 9-1 Farmost, 12 Hadadabble, 14-1 Billaddie, 20-1 Inaminit
1994: see Division I

FORM GUIDE
Dane O'Neill, one of the season's top apprentices, can land this on BEARNAISE. Richard Hannon's youngster was in the ruck in the 19-runner Newbury nursery won by Proud Monk last time but earlier finished a creditable sixth of 13 to Lunar Mist at Haydock. Other good efforts were her second behind Last Token at Salisbury in July and third to Jubilee Place at Windsor the following month. May Queen Megan, third to Dande Flyer on her debut here last month, did not do badly when sixth of 19 to Thordis at Leicester two weeks ago and could be in at the finish. Village Native, a neck runner-up behind Nellie North at Windsor in July, stumbled at the start but soon led in a Leicester nursery a fortnight ago, weakening *over two out and finishing fifth of 12 to Worldwide Elsie. Reverting to this shorter trip should be a help.*
Selection: BEARNAISE

3.00 CLAYMORE CLAIMING HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,650 added 2m 93yds Penalty Value £2,519

1 264442 ENVIRONMENTALIST (37) (C) (BF) (T J Dawson) R Harris 4 10 0 — A Mackay 13
2 250006 REQUESTED (11) (D) (Brook Alder) P Burgoyne 8 D 8 — T Quinn 6
3 602306 ROSE OF GLENN (9) (K M Rideout) B Palling 4 8 3 — Dane O'Neill (5) 7
4 102520- ST KITTS (438) (T Lightbowne) W G M Turner 4 8 12 — A Daly (7) 8
5 006330 FATTASH (USA) (21) (Michael Tobitt) 9 Hoad 3 8 10 — R Cochrane 3
6 40-0600 CHITA RIVERA (40) (R P Marchant) P Makin 4 8 7 — S Sanders 14
7 036563 DECEIT THE SECOND (9) (C F Sparrowhawk) G Lewis 3 8 7 — A Whelan (5) 1
8 00-0 SIRIUS (154) (Star Racing) C Weedon 3 8 3 — G Duffield 22
9 6066-00 KEEP QUIET (154) (W Musson) W Musson 3 8 2 — P McCabe (3) 2
10 00-5000 CHARMED LIFE (11) (Peter A Brazier) Mrs A King 8 8 2 — M Henry (5) 4
11 0-00522 MARONETTA (41) (Mrs G M Martin) M Ryan 3 8 1 — G Bardwell 11
12 225400 MILNGAVIE (51) (D) (A S Robertson) M Johnston 5 7 12 — N Adams 6
13 005000 BALLESTRO (5) (Lont Venture Racing) J Ffitch-Heyes 3 7 11 — N Varley (3) 9
14 060040 SECRET ASSIGNMENT (USA) (138) (Michael J Low) R Curtis 5 7 8 — J Quinn 10
– 14 declared –

BETTING: 7-2 Requested, 4-1 Maronetta, 5-1 Environmentalist, 7-1 Deceit The Second, 8-1 Fattash, 10-1 Chita Rivera, Milngavie, Rose of Glenn, 12-1 St Kitts, 14-1 Keep Quiet, 20-1 others
1994: By Arrangement 5 8 4 M Fenton 7-1 (S Woodman) 10 ran

FORM GUIDE
MARONETTA comes here in as good form as any, going under by a neck to Aviator's Dream in a 16-runner race at Brighton last time. Before that she was runner-up to *Highfield Fizz* at Redcar, beaten five lengths but coming home four lengths clear of the third in a field of 17. Maronetta's stamina has to be taken on trust but she should last home. Requested will pose a big threat if he can reproduce the form he showed when winning at Newmarket in May, defeating Trans Siberia a neck. *Environmentalist*, who ran Micyan to half a length at Nottingham in May, is only 1lb higher today. He was beaten a couple of lengths by Sommersby on the sand at Wolverhampton on his most recent outing. Milngavie is on a long losing sequence, though he has three times finished runner-up this term, most recently when beaten half a length by Vain Prince at Hamilton in August. However, he was some way behind Deceit The Second (sixth) when 14th of 19 to Greek Night Out at Catterick last time. Deceit The Second later took the minor placing behind Klemetim at Wolverhampton, where Rose Of Glenn and Ballestro finished sixth and seventh of 11. Selection: MARONETTA

3.30 FOIL SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) £3,250 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £2,243

1 004014 SCENIC DANCER (27) (D) (Anthony Hide) A Hide 7 9 10 — W Woods 5
2 4056-00 EL VOLADOR (27) (D) (A A J Pearce) R O'Sullivan 8 9 7 — M Henry (5) 13
3 0-060R0 RUN-DO-RUN (11) (R H Coombes) H Collingridge 3 9 7 — W Newnes 10
4 00-2440 NIGHT EDITION (4) (CD) (Paul G Jacobs) S Dow 5 9 4 — G Duffield 6
5 006000- FEELING HOPE (406) (Owen G James) M Saunders 4 9 3 — N Adams 15
8 060030 COLLEGE NIGHT (10) (Mrs Christine Dunnett) C Dwyer 3 9 2 — P McCabe (3) 4
7 030000 AUTUMN COVER (10) (G A Alexander) R M Flower 3 9 2 — Dane O'Neill (5) 12
8 350500 JEMIMA PUDDLEDUCK (21) (C) (Mrs B J Lee) D Arbuthnot 4 D 0 — T Quinn 2
D 006-206 SHARP THRILL (271) (K H Burks) B Smart 4 9 0 — D Harrison 3
10 0346/0-0 TAUTEN (14) (T Barker) P Burgoyne 5 8 13 — J Williams 7
11 0-65 ALIOLI (42) (Tim Corby) M Ryan 3 8 13 — M Baird (5) 14
12 246050 EMMA GRIMES (10) (J K Grimes) J S Moore 4 8 11 — J F Egan 17
13 000110 BLOW FORUM (27) (D) (The Forum Ltd) G L Moore 4 8 10 — M Fenton 11
14 160100 NOTHING DOING (21) (D) (Broughton Bloodstock) W Musson 6 8 D — R Cochrane 1
15 053004 MILTAK (76) (Peter Haddock) P Makin 3 8 D — S Sanders 8
16 00-2540 SMOCKING (10) (M J Baxter) J Pearce 5 8 6 — G Bardwell 18
17 00026-4 KENYATTA (USA) (307) (A Moore) 4 Moore 6 8 D — Candy Morris 9
18 0-36530 NIVASHA (40) (Mills Racing) R Hoad 3 8 6 — J Quinn 16
– 10 declared –

BETTING: 4-1 Emma Grimes, 5-1 Scenic Dancer, 13-2 Jemima Puddleduck, 8-1 others
1994: Silver Pearl 3 8 2 0 Harrison 10-1 (M Pipe) 18 ran

4.00 SABRE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,400 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £3,960

1 040001 FAIRY KNIGHT (6) (P & S Lever Partners) R Hannon 3 10 D (5ex) — J Reid 15
2 3354-30 RETENDER (USA) (201) (D) (J Pearce) J Pearce 6 D 12 — J Williams 10
3 140003 QUEST AGAIN (11) (Miss P E Decker) D Arbuthnot 4 D 11 — T Quinn 13
4 62400-0 TODD (USA) (178) (J Morton) P Mitchell 4 9 10 — M Henry (5) 17
5 0-3002 RAMSDENS (10) (B Haggas) W Haggas 3 9 8 — W Woods 6
6 264110 AYUNLI (10) (D) (I A Southcott) S Williams 4 9 8 — Dane O'Neill (5) 11
7 542021 MINNESOTA VIKING (21) (CD) (Charles Green) Lady Herries 4 9 6 — R Cochrane 8
8 515000- TICKERTY'S GIFT (343) (K Higson) G L Moore 5 9 4 — Candy Morris 16
D 43510 ANJOU (13) (D) (G H Tufts) J Pearce 3 8 3 — G Bardwell 1
10 200500 CHILDREN'S CHOICE (18) (C) (P C Tolman) P McBride 4 9 3 — A Whelan (5) D
11 202323 DOUCE MAISON (10) (Mrs Ann Jarvis) A Jarvis 4 9 2 — J Tate 12
12 000032 LIDHAMA (USA) (10) (Abdulla Al Khalifa) G Lewis 3 9 1 — S Whitworth 5
13 023005 PASS MARK (10) (Lord Hopetoun) J Fanshawe 3 8 13 — N Varley (3) 4
14 110300 ROCK THE BARNEY (21) (D) (Mrs Satu Marks) P Burgoyne D 8 13 — P McCabe (3) 6
15 565236 TONKA (21) (Mrs J M West) P Makin 3 8 13 — S Sanders 16
18 114-002 GRANBY BELL (27) (D) (H A Watton) P Hayward 4 8 12 — D Harrison 7
17 211480 BROUGHTONS FORMULA (36) (D) (Crawford Gray & Aylott) W Musson 5 8 12 — J Quinn 2
18 403300 SALTANDO (13) (Mrs Sandy Herridge) Pat Mitchell 4 8 9 — M Fenton 14
– 10 declared –

BETTING: 9-2 Lidhama, 5-1 Douce Maison, 6-1 Ramsdens, 8-1 Minnesota Viking, Granby Bell, 10-1 Ayunli, Fairy Knight, Broughtons Formula, 12-1 Quest Again, 14-1 Anjou, 16-1 others
1994: Ballymac Girl 8 9 0 L Charnock 11-1 (J M Bradley) 18 ran

SOUTHWELL

HYPERION
1.10 Whitley Grange Boy 1.40 Rival Bid
2.10 Elpida 2.40 Broadstairs Beauty
3.10 Ground Game 3.40 Righteous Gent
4.10 Saracen Prince

GOING: Standard.
STALLS: 6f, 7f, 1m, 1m 3f – inside; remainder – outside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 6f.
Fibresand surface; left-hand sharp, oval course.
Course is 5m W of Newark. Rolleston Junction adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club £12; Tattersalls £6 (OAP members of course's Diamond Club £4). CAR PARK: Free.

SIS RACING CHANNEL

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: O'naan (1.10), Philmist (2.10), *Sphinx Levely* (visored), Dragonjoy, Hurricane Horn, Ricochet, Shanoora (3.40), Northern Trove (4.10).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Father Dan (1.40) has been sent 207 miles by *Miss G Kelleway* from Whitcombe, Dorset.

1.10 MIDWAY MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV I) £5,000 2YO 1m (AW)

1 0 BELLE'S BOY (28) B Palling D D — *T Sprake* 2
2 CRYSTAL FAST P Kelleway 9 D — M Rimmer 1
3 0305 D'NAAN (19) W Haggas D D — T Ives 3
4 4 GOLD KICKER (86) M Ryan D 0 — A Clark 4
5 IVOR'S DEED C Wall 9 0 — L Newton (5) 6
6 00 MARSAYAS (6) M Camacho D D — L Charnock 11
7 MILTON P Cole 9 0 — R Hughes 10
8 RED RUSTY D Morris 9 0 — Stephen Davies 12
D 0 SNOW DOMINO (34) J M Jefferson 9 0 — K Fallon 9
10 WATER CHESTNUT Mrs N Macauley D D — Amanda Sanders (7) 5
11 05 WHITLEY GRANGE BOY (30) J L Eyre 9 0 — R Lappin 6
12 050 WHOTHEHELLISHARRY (66) J Berry D 0 — S D Williams 7
13 0500 LUNAR GRIS (13) J Banks 8 9 — J Stack (3) 13
– 13 declared –

BETTING: 5-2 D'Naan, 3-1 Milton, Gold Kicker, 8-1 Crystal Fast, Whitley Grange Boy, 12-1 Ivor's Deed, 16-1 others

1.40 MARIANA LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,650 1m 3f (AW)

1 6-10000 JUST FLAMENCO (27) M Ryan 4 9 7 — R Hughes 7
2 750001 OUR MAIN MAN (21) (D) R Whitaker 5 9 7 — Dale Gibson 1
3 532141 RIVAL BID (13) (C) (D) Mrs N Macauley 7 D 7 — Amanda Sanders (7) 3
4 461453 FATHER DAN (31) (D) Miss Gay Kelleway 6 D 5 — K Fallon 6
5 060040 GREEK GOLD (16) (CD) D Nicholls D D 3 — M Tebbutt 9
6 000-0 SEA GOD (19) M Chapman 4 9 3 — C Munday (7) 14
7 136260 TEMPERING (194) (CD) D Chapman D D 3 — A Culhane 2
8 240603 LADY HIGHFIELD (27) M Ryan 4 9 2 — A Clark 10
9 424562 DIAMOND MARKET (8) R Hollinshead 3 8 11 — T Ives 12
10 05340 MIROV PROTEGE (10) (C) H Collingridge 3 8 11 — M Rimmer 8
11 00000 PC'S CRUISER (11) (C) J L Eyre 3 8 11 — R Lappin 13
12 38543 INSTANTANEOUS (25) (C) M H Easterby 3 8 10 — L Newton (5) 8
13 04020 IFANI (26) W Haggas 3 8 D — Dean McKeown 4
14 300-00 LATCH KEY LADY (51) M Johnston 3 8 8 — T Williams 11
– 14 declared –

BETTING: 6-1 Rival Bid, 7-1 Diamond Market, Lady Highfield, 8-1 Greek Gold, 10-1 Our Main Man, Instantaneous, 12-1 others

2.10 BOUNTY AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,400 1m 6f (AW)

1 033440 KADIRI (139) J Bosley 4 11 7 — Mrs G Bosley 1
2 2-0000 FIVE TO SEVEN (4) (C) C Thornton 6 11 4 — Mr S Swiers 8
3 5-00145 ELPIDA (23) J Pearce 3 11 1 — Mrs L Pearce 2
4 341-500 MRS JAWLEYFORD (21) (C) C Smith 7 11 0 — Mrs M Morris (5) 13
5 053134 STALLED (108) (BF) P Walwyn 5 10 D — Marchioness Weedford (5) 15
6 00-6 ABINGER (40) Lady Herries 3 10 8 — Mr P Pritchard-Gordon 12
7 3100 HANDMAIDEN (79) (C) A Harrison 5 10 8 — Mrs D Kettlewell 9
8 263000 LONE RISK (51) C Allen 4 10 7 — Mr V Lukaniuk (5) 14
8 124022 SOOJAMA (21) R M Flower 5 10 8 — Mr R Johnson 6
10 10353 HASTA LA VISTA (24) (C) M W Easterby 5 10 5 — Mr C Bonner 4
11 12005 IJAB (25) (CD) J Parkes 5 10 3 — Mr M B Naughton 10
12 25500 PHILMIST (25) (B) C W C Elsey 3 10 2 — Miss A Elsey 11
13 000-05 SUSELJA (24) J M Jefferson 4 10 1 — Mr W Wenyon (5) 17
14 00-005 FAIR AND FANCY (18) D Nicholls 4 9 D — Mrs A Perrett 8
15 31133 GREEK NIGHT OUT (21) J L Eyre 4 D 8 — Miss Diana Jones 7
16 0-000P CROWTHER HOMES (21) E Alston D 9 5 — Mrs A Farrell 16
17 4/60 PHANAN (38) R Peacock 9 9 5 — Mrs C Peacock (5) 8
– 17 declared –

BETTING: 5-1 Hasta La Vista, 6-1 Soojama, 8-1 Elpida, Suselja, Greek Night Out, 10-1 Stalled, Ijab, 12-1 others

2.40 FYFFES OF NOTTINGHAM HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,250 6f (AW)

1 520300 WHITE SORREL (63) (CD) A Harrison 4 10 0 — J Stack (3) 4
2 040600 SIR TASKER (7) (C) (D) J L Harris 7 9 13 — D Sweeney (7) 8
3 002460 LEIGH CROFTER (18) (D) P Cundell 6 9 12 — D Griffiths (5) 7
4 105000 BROADSTAIRS BEAUTY (26) (CD) 9 R Bowring 5 9 11 — S D Williams 1
5 0-01013 BERGE (12) (CD) W O'Gorman 4 D 10 — Emma O'Gorman 10
6 300000 NORDICO PRINCESS (18) (CD) M Brittain 4 9 8 — K Fallon 3
7 300000 BOLD STREET (38) (D) A Bailey 5 8 4 — D Wright (3) 9
8 020620 AT THE SAVOY (73) (CD) T D Barron 4 8 3 — Kimberley Hart (7) 6
D 554205 SILK COTTAGE (2) R Whitaker 3 6 13 — A Culhane 12
10 02000 SUE ME (20) (D) W Muir 3 8 12 — T Ives 16
11 50200 LA PETITE FUSEE (20) (D) (BF) R O'Sullivan 4 8 10 — R Hughes 15
12 55033 HICKORY BLUE (12) Mrs N Macauley 5 8 10 — Amanda Sanders (7) 2
13 06003 DEEPLY VALE (27) G L Moore 4 8 10 — A Clark 11
14 050 BARRANAK (27) Mrs M McCourt 3 8 D — R Studholme (7) 8
15 05042 JIGSAW BOY (9) (D) (BF) P Murphy D 8 3 — S Drowne (3) 14
16 45300 YOUNG BENSON (18) B McMahon 3 8 8 — Dale Gibson 13
– 16 declared –

BETTING: 4-1 Jigsaw Boy, 6-1 Hickory Blue, 7-1 Berge, 8-1 Bold Street, Leigh Crofter, Silk Cottage, 10-1 Sir Tasker, 14-1 others

3.10 MIDWAY MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV II) £5,000 2YO 1m (AW)

1 0600 ALZOTIC (21) B Norton 9 0 — K Fallon 5
2 46 COLWAY BRIDGE (23) Mrs M Reveley 8 0 — A Culhane 1
3 8 DOUBLE DASH (35) M Johnston 9 0 — T Williams 3
4 MAESTRO TIME T D Barron 9 0 — Dean McKeown 4
5 D OBANG (88) J FitzGerald D D — T Ives 12
8 TAKADAY M Camacho D 0 — L Charnock 7
7 043250 TWO SOCKS (21) M McCormack 9 0 — J Stack (3) 2
8 CONTRARIE M Ryan 8 9 — A Clark 6
9 3 GROUND GAME (24) D Loder 8 8 — R Hughes 10
10 5 KISSING GATE (20) 9 Charlton 8 D — T Sprake 8
11 D RAIN CLOUD (26) W Haigh 8 D — Dale Gibson 11
12 04 SIS GARDEN (7) M H Easterby 8 D — M Rimmer 9
– 12 declared –

BETTING: 5-2 Contrarie, 3-1 Ground Game, 4-1 Two Socks, 8-1 Sis Garden, 8-1 Double Dash, 12-1 Alzotic, 16-1 others

3.40 BONIN SELLING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,400 2YO 7f (AW)

1 061600 TICKA TICKA TIMING (37) (C) B Murray D 2 — Martin Dwyer (7) 15
2 000000 DRAGONJOY (8) J W Payne 8 11 — A McGlone 13
3 00 GINNER B SPECIAL (56) S R Bowring 8 11 — C Teague (5) 1
4 00000 HURRICANE HORN (9) W Muir 8 11 — M Rimmer D
5 15500 ORANGE AND BLUE (60) Miss J Craze 8 11 — S Webster 14
6 008660 RICHARD HOUSE LAD (9) (BF) B Hollinshead 8 11 — T Ives 18
7 00 RICOCHET (63) G Norton 8 11 — Dean McKeown 4
8 506 RIGHTEOUS GENT (9) K McAuliffe 8 11 — R Hughes 8
9 66 RON'S GEM (116) W Haigh 8 11 — Dale Gibson 12
10 30006 SHANOORA (23) (C) B Palling 8 11 — T Sprake 6
11 46300 SPHINX LEVELY (66) A Jarvis 8 11 — D Wright (3) 11
12 D EMBROIDERED (9) Sir Mark Prescott 8 8 — C Nutter 8
13 00 HANNAHS BAY (34) M Meagher 8 6 — K Fallon 16
14 640 NUTCRACKER (33) C Booth 8 6 — M Kennedy 2
15 0 ROCKET GROUNDS (34) J Quinn 8 D — A Culhane 7
16 8 THE FULLBANGLADESH (7) J L Eyre 8 6 — R Lappin 5
– 16 declared –

BETTING: 4-1 Righteous Gent, 5-1 Rocket Grounds, 8-1 The Fullbangladesh, 8-1 Richard House Lad, Nutcracker, 16-1 others

4.10 SOLOMAN HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,650 1m (AW)

1 0-44230 HAWAII STORM (283) (CD) D French Davis 7 10 0 — A Procter (5) 4
2 005600 BEAUMAN (40) (D) P D Evans 5 10 0 — R Hughes 16
3 213315 EASTLEIGH (190) (C) (BF) R Hollinshead D 9 13 — T Ives 12
4 100006 ROOD MUSIC (4) (D) M Meagher 4 D 13 — K Fallon 14
5 00000-1 SARACEN PRINCE (9) (D) P Kelleway 3 9 13 — J Stack (3) 1
6 200900 KOMANIATE (28) S R Bowring 3 9 13 — C Teague (5) 2
7 060302 EXCLUSIVE ASSEMBLY (94) (C) 4 James 3 9 12 — L Newton (5) 3
8 0-00000 LADY SILK (9) (C) Miss J Craze 4 9 12 — S Webster 11
9 230000 NORTHERN TROVE (8) R Thompson 3 8 12 — T Williams 8
10 26400 ACTION JACKSON (12) B McMath 3 8 12 — M Rimmer 16
11 0130-0 VOCAL COMMAND (28) W Haigh 3 8 11 — Dale Gibson 6
12 00-000 NORTH ESK (18) (D) C Dwyer 8 8 11 — C Dwyer 9
13 2P000 SHAREOFTHEACTION (37) (C) Mrs A M Naughton 4 D 9 — V Halliday 7
14 83440 NOBBY BARNES (13) (CD) Don E Incisa 8 D 9 — Kim Tinkler 13
15 30420 DIA GEORGY (65) (D) Mrs N Macauley 4 D 9 — S O'Williams D
16 00046 LUCKY TUCKY (124) (D) J Jenkins 4 8 8 — A McGlone 15
– 10 declared –

BETTING: 4-1 Saracen Prince, 5-1 Exclusive Assembly, Eastleigh, 8-1 North Esk, Hawaii Storm, 16-1 Lucky Tucky, 12-1 others

CARLISLE

HYPERION
12.50 Mister Muddypaws 1.20 East Houston 1.50 Tallywagger 2.20 Countorus
2.50 Explore Mondial 3.20 Flash Of Realm
3.50 Chopwell Curtains

GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places on Hurdles course).
Right-hand, undulating course, run-in of 250yds.
Course is on southern outskirts of town on Durdar road, 4m W of junction 42 of M6. Buses from Carlisle station which is 2 miles away. ADMISSION: Club £10; Tattersalls £6 (OAPs £3). CAR PARK: On rails £3 (including occupants); remainder free.

SIS RACING CHANNEL

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Romany Creek (2.20) has been sent 309 miles by G Balding from Fyfield, Hants; Pats Minstrel (3.20) sent 272 miles by R Champion from Newmarket, Suffolk.

12.50 HEINEKEN NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,800 3m 110yds

1 34641-2 MISTER MUDDYPAWS (47) J H Johnson 5 11 6 — A Maguire
2 D AVONMAT (10) J J O'Neill 5 11 0 — R McGrath (7)
3 002-24 CLASSIC CREST (15) G M Moore 4 11 0 — N Bentley
4 -000- KINGS MINSTRAL (208) D Lamb 5 11 D — Mr A Manners (7)
5 00/3/60- SELF IMPORTANT (364) D Nolan 10 11 0 — T Reed
8 0/PPO- TWICE WEEKLY (278) F Jestin D 10 9 — I Jardine (7)
– 6 declared –

BETTING: 2-5 Mister Muddypaws, 5-1 Classic Crest, 8-1 Avonmat, 12-1 Kings Minstral, Self Important, 33-1 Twice Weekly

1.20 COCKER HOOP NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,500 2m 4f 110yds

1 300-29U EAST HOUSTON (30) J J O'Neill 6 11 0 — M Dwyer
2 05/P344 GYMCRAK GAMBLE (15) T Dyer 7 11 0 — A Dobbin
3 0/50P34- PETER (205) D Williams 7 11 0 — B Harding (3)
4 506-560 TO BE THE BEST (5) D Lamb 5 11 0 — Mr A Manners (7)
5 P0050U- JUST MOLLY (363) W G Reed 8 10 D — T Reed
– D declared –

BETTING: 5-4 East Houston, 2-1 Gymcrak Gamble, 5-1 Peter, 7-1 To Be The Best, 8-1 Just Molly

1.50 CUMBERLAND ALE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 3m 110yds

1 2/2F0F TALLYWAGGER (590) (D) G M Moore 8 12 0 — J Callaghan
2 20622-3 MONARU (16) (CD) (BF) Mrs M Reveley 9 11 11 — G Lee (3)
3 0068-13 ADRIEN (12) (CD) (BF) Mrs S Bramall 7 11 5 — Mr K Whelan (5)
4 P52040- GREAT MAX (165) C Parker D 10 13 — B Storey
5 1P00-43 NOW YOUNG MAN (9) Mrs A Swinbank 8 10 11 — J Railton
6 04142-5 EXEMPLAR (9) (C) Mrs S Smith 7 10 11 — Richard Guest
– 6 declared –

BETTING: 5-1 Now Young Man, 11-4 Adrien, 4-1 Monaru, 5-1 Great Max, 6-1 Exemplar, 10-1 Tallywagger

2.20 JENNINGS BREWERY 'LUCIUS' HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 3m

1 521/1P-5 MERRY MASTER (26) (CD) A Harrison 11 12 0 — Mr M Armytage
2 2P211-2 COUNTORUS (31) (D) J H Johnson D 10 13 — A Maguire
3 15824-4 BOARDING SCHOOL (150) C Parker 8 10 8 — B Storey
4 13214-1 NINFA (16) (CD) 8 Richards 7 10 8 — A Dobbin
5 1P13-22 ROMANY CREEK (11) (D) (BF) G Balding 6 10 2 — A P McCoy
8 F1-6363 RUSTY BLADE (16) (D) P Monteith D 10 D — B Harding (3)
– 6 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Rusty Blade 9st 10lb.
BETTING: 5-4 Ninfa, 3-1 Countorus, 7-2 Boarding School, 5-1 Romany Creek, 7-1 Merry Master, 14-1 Rusty Blade

2.50 SNECK-LIFTER NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,800 2m 4f 110yds

1 2405/F5- STRICTLY PERSONAL (321) M Barnes 5 11 10 — A Maguire
2 4033-63 EXPLORE MONDIAL (16) T Dyer 4 11 8 — J Wyer
3 006-3 RED ELKON (31) G Holmes 4 11 3 — M Dwyer
4 /045-1 HIGHLAND PARK (15) (D) R Craggs D 10 11 — A Dobbin
5 0300/62- GYMCRAK CYRANO (369) N Chamberlain 6 10 10 — B Storey
8 PP/00- ULTRAKAY (185) J Haynes 5 10 0 — M Moloney
– 6 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Ultrakay 9st 8lb.
BETTING: 9-4 Highland Park, 5-2 Explore Mondial, 3-1 Gymcrak Cyrano, 6-1 Red Elkon, Strictly Personal, 25-1 Ultrakay

3.20 JENNINGS BITTER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 2m

1 1013-41 PATS MINSTREL (28) (D) R Champion 10 11 10 — M A Fitzgerald
2 101-415 FLASH OF REALM (9) (D) P Monteith 8 11 4 — A Dobbin
3 2521F-0 RAPID MOVER (44) (D) D Nolan 8 10 10 — P Carberry
4 P44045- STRONG APPROACH (180) (CD) J Charlton 10 10 D — B Storey
– 4 declared –

BETTING: evens Pats Minstrel, 5-2 Flash of Realm, 7-2 Strong Approach, 6-1 Rapid Mover

3.50 JENNINGS DARK MILD NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 2m 1f

1 2- ADAMATIC (172) R Allan 4 11 2 — S Melrose (7)
2 0 BOWLANDS COUNTRY (15) G M Moore 4 11 2 — N Bentley
3 CASTLE RED J Wade 4 11 2 — K Jones
4 322- CHOPWELL CURTAINS (219) M H Easterby 5 11 2 — L Wyer
5 2 DILLONS BRIDGE (177) J J O'Neill 6 11 2 — A Roche (3)
6 0-0 DURHAM GLINT (15) J Hellens 4 11 2 — A Thornton
7 00- KILTULLA (364) Mrs S Smith 5 11 2 — Richard Guest
8 LORD RULLAH J Wade 4 11 2 — D Ryan (7)
9 0 MAJOR SIOUX (47) C Thornton 4 11 2 — D Wilkinson
10 U0P- PAINT YOUR WAGON (235) N Chamberlain 5 11 2 — I Supple (3)
11 RASIN TROUBLE R Craggs 4 11 2 — N Smith
12 040- SKIDDAW ROCK (203) Mrs M Reveley 5 11 2 — R Hodge
13 YOUNG KENNY P Beaumont 4 11 2 — B Grattan (7)
14 SHEER GIFT J Birkett 6 10 11 — A Jones
– 14 declared –

BETTING: 2-1 Dillons Bridge, 3-1 Chopwell Curtains, 6-1 Skiddaw Rock, 8-1 Adamatic, Young Kenny, 14-1 Major Sioux, 16-1 others

Carnegie for stud in Japan

Carnegie, Sheikh Mohammed's 1994 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe winner, has been retired to stud in Japan, where former top European runners in Dancing Brave, Dr Devious and Generous already stand.

"This demonstrates the immense importance Sheikh Mohammed attaches to Japan in the international racing and breeding context," Justin Wadham, of the Sheikh's Darley Stud, said. A fortnight ago Darley Stud became the first European stud to sell at auction in Japan, when one of its fillies topped the sale at Hokkaido.

THE INDEPENDENT Horse Racing
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sport

BOXING: Heartbreaker Holyfield is stopped in the eighth. **Ken Jones** reports from Las Vegas

Riddick Bowe celebrates (left) after stopping Evander Holyfield (main picture) in the eighth round at Caesars Palace Las Vegas on Saturday — Photographs: AP

Bowe stems the tide of emotion

Intrigue is so much a way of life in heavyweight boxing that the future was made no clearer at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas late on Saturday when Riddick Bowe stopped Evander Holyfield in the eighth round of a thrilling encounter.

Although Bowe's manager, Rock Newman, said yesterday that he had entered into negotiations with Don King for a fight against Mike Tyson some time next year, Lennox Lewis threw down a challenge to the victor at ringside. This despite the further action his associates are taking in a New Jersey court room today to prevent Frank Bruno from defending the World Boxing Council championship against Tyson early next year. "I still believe in my right to challenge Bruno [it was rejected by a British judge last week] but I'm ready to fight Bowe," Lewis said.

It is an idea that appeals hugely to the American cable television network, Home Box Office, that has both men under contract and whose chief executive, Seth Abraham, telephoned London early yesterday to speak with Lewis's chief advisor, *Panos Eliades*. "*I* repeat that we are prepared to assist Lennox in his efforts to be confirmed as Bruno's challenger but Bowe and Lewis would be a tremendous attraction," Abraham said.

In arguing that there will be an important principle at stake in New Jersey today, Lewis's manager, Frank Maloney, did not appear to share common ground with his fighter. Because of the probability that King, on Bruno's behalf, would succeed with a counter-action in Nevada, neither did he speak with any great conviction.

But for sensible intervention, Lewis might have embarrassed himself and brought down a bombardment of criticism by declaring publicly that the third meeting between Bowe and Holyfield was not anything to shout about. "Say that in there [a press conference] and you'll get slaughtered," he was advised by a veteran British boxing writer.

What stood beyond Lewis's perception was that, while there have been better heavyweight contests, few have done more to advance the sport's traditional nobility. This was especially true of the grace Holyfield showed in defeat after almost causing a sensation in the sixth round with a violent left hook that sent Bowe to the canvas.

When Holyfield saw Bowe lurch to his feet, hanging on to the ropes for support, he sensed that it was all over. Wearied by strenuous bouts of in-fighting when giving away more than two stones, he hardly raised his hands in an attempt to complete Bowe's destruction.

"You fight with what you have," Holyfield said, "and I gave everything. I had a problem with my right shoulder but I'm not complaining. It's not like I wasn't prepared. He was just *better and I thank God* for having all my faculties."

You could have cried for Holyfield, you really could, and there were damp eyes in the room when he spoke of rejecting the temptation to go down from a low right in the fifth round for which Bowe was deducted a point by the referee, Joe Cortez. "I thought about it as a way out of there, but it isn't in me to cheat."

That Holyfield was asking too much of his remarkable will and putting himself seriously at risk became quickly evident. By the end of the fourth he was travelling on heavy legs and no hope could be held out for him.

Then, suddenly at the start of the sixth round, Holyfield launched a left hook that carried every ounce of the strength he had left. "It confused me in a big way," Bowe said afterwards, "but I knew it wasn't the way we'd planned things. Fortunately, Evander wasn't able to follow up."

Between the sixth and seventh rounds Bowe's renowned trainer, Eddie Futch, called for an alteration in strategy. "*Your right hand* is low, so don't stand up against the left hook, duck beneath it," Futch said. By the end of the seventh Holyfield held a 66-65 advantage on all three official scorecards and made another effort on resumption, hooking with both hands. There was more hesitation in Bowe but as Holyfield came in he fell on to a flat hook that sent him over sideways.

There could have hardly been anyone in the arena who was not aware of Holyfield's dishevellment but, frighteningly, Cortez let Holyfield take two more punches before stopping the contest. In view of recent tragedies Cortez, a vastly experienced official, should be asked to explain himself.

Before they left the ring, Bowe spoke to Holyfield warmly. "You are my inspiration," he said. "In our minds and hearts you are a champion forever." Later, outside the dressing rooms, they fell into an embrace.

The fact that Bowe survived a blow that probably would have finished off the majority of heavyweights is an important consideration, but Lewis gave him little credit. "Frankly, I don't think Bowe had a lot to beat," he said. "Holyfield made the mistake of standing in front of him. He was as easy to hit as a punchbag, but Bowe still had a problem."

George Foreman went further, insisting that Bowe defeated an invalid. "Evander is a sick man," he said. "Bowe struggled to beat a man that sick, so how can people say that he is the best heavyweight?"

The problem for Lewis is that he and his people, particularly the Duva organisation, Main Events, that has long been at odds with the WBC and its King-friendly president, Jose Sulaiman, are working to different route maps.

A distinct possibility is that even if Home Box Office are able to get negotiations under way, the question of who gets what will prevent Bowe-Lewis happening. Lewis is bound to demand parity in the purse money, which isn't quite how Newman sees things. From the way he spoke yesterday, he is more inclined to seek Tyson as the next opponent for his man.

Using a microphone, Lewis taunted Bowe on Saturday, reminding him that they were due to meet for the undisputed title three years ago until he cast the WBC version into a trash can. "Momma," Bowe retorted.

They've come this far, but will boxing politics again prevent further progress?

Henman has edge over Rusedski

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS
reports from Telford

Greg Rusedski could only grin and bear it as Tim Henman recovered from 1-6, 0-1 to triumph in three sets and become the youngest holder of the men's singles title at the Guardian Direct National Championships yesterday.

The 21-year-old Henman is growing accustomed to quick turn-arounds. *Having* completed an astonishing two weeks, winning singles and doubles titles in Seoul and Shropshire and coping with time zones, jet lag and returning the fastest serve in the game with interest, he is due to set forth again this morning for a tournament in China.

This time last year, Henman visited the Nationals on crutches, having broken his right leg. He had restored himself as the nation's brightest prospect before the Canadian-born Rusedski was recruited as Britain's No 1 in May, and two contrasting matches during the weekend have underlined the Oxford player's potential.

In Saturday's semi-finals, Henman's dazzling stroke-play reinforced the wisdom of Jeremy Bates' decision to retire after Wimbledon next year. Having whipped Bates 6-2, 6-1, and then won the doubles title with the 33-year-old from Solihull, Henman, the third seed, appeared overawed and in danger of being *humiliated* by Rusedski in yesterday's final.

Henman's fortitude enabled him to transform the situation and win 1-6, 6-3, 6-2. He had the confidence to capitalise when his opponent began to lose control of his mighty serve, and exposed Rusedski's vulnerability when drawn into trading shots.

"I feel very happy with what I've achieved," Henman said. "I've proved that I can play when everything goes well, and I've *shown some* guts to come back when the chips were down."

Henman, ranked 75 places below Rusedski at No 116 in the world, had planned to make a brisk start in the hope of putting pressure on his opponent's serve. The opening set flashed by in only 19 minutes, *but Henman* barely put two shots together.

When he lost his serve again in the opening game of the second set, it seemed that he was about to capitulate. Far from it. Encouraged when Rusedski *double*-faulted on the opening point of the second game, Henman began to make some telling returns, and the certainty gradually drained from his opponent's play.

Rusedski double-faulted 10 times in total, beckoning Henman into the match a *second* time after breaking for 2-1 in the second set, and then losing his serve at the start of the third.

Henman, in contrast, dropped only three points in his last six service games after taking a 3-2 lead in the second set, and demoralised Rusedski by winning seven consecutive games. He completed the victory after 80 minutes with a service winner and two aces.

"Tim deserved to win for sure," Rusedski said. "He showed a lot of character and a lot of belief. I tried too hard to serve well today. When I try too hard I get nervous and tight."

Apart from the other qualities he displayed during an encouraging week, Henman showed *healthy perspective in his attitude* towards his success here. "Don't get me wrong, winning the national title makes me very proud, but it doesn't do anything for my ranking. I'm now due to play in the smallest Challenger [tournament] there is."

Clare Wood, the top seed, won the women's singles title for a third time, having utilised her experience to outplay the 17-year-olds, Jasmine Choudhury and Amanda Janes, and the 23-year-old, Sam Smith.

Sparkling Sampras

Pete Sampras celebrated his return to the top of the tennis world with a stylish straight-sets victory over Boris Becker in the Paris Open final yesterday.

Sampras, the top seed, who had already done enough in this tournament to reclaim the No 1 spot be lost to his fellow American, Andre Agassi, last April, stayed cool to counter a determined Becker and win 7-6, 6-4, 6-4.

After a tense first set which ended in a tie-break, the rematch of last July's Wimbledon final, won in four sets by Sampras, turned out to be a spectacular if one-sided battle.

Becker, the third seed who was seeking a fourth win in this event, gave his all but there was little the German could do against the elegant American, at his brilliant best under the floodlights of the high-tech Bercy arena.

Victory earned Sampras 380 ATP Tour points to give him a clear lead in the world rankings ahead of Agassi, who was unable to defend the *title* because of a muscle strain.

"I'm pleased with the way I played," Sampras said. "I don't think I can play much better than that.

"This win gives me a lot of confidence going on to Frankfurt," he added, referring to the ATP Tour World Championship, featuring the world's top eight players, which starts on 14 November.

Giddins applies the brakes

Cricket

Karachi Combined XI 204
England A 47-0

England A produced another competent day in the field against a Combined XI at the Defence Stadium in Karachi. Losing the toss, they did well to restrict their hastily assembled opponents to 204.

Ian Salisbury led the way with the early wicket of the in-form Shahid Anwar. Although Salisbury finished with 4 for 72, the pick of the bowlers was Ed Giddins, who impressed with his accuracy and control, taking a wicket in each of his three spells.

Giddins made the first breakthrough when he bowled Mohammad Ramzan after half an hour. Shoaib Mohammad, tipped to join the Pakistan Test team in Australia in place of the ailing Saeed Anwar, did his chances no harm with a mature 40 which steadied the innings.

He put on 83 for the third wicket with Azam Khan, and Mahmood Hamid, a promising middle-order batsman, hit 30 off 54 balls, but the rest of the innings folded tamely.

(First day of four; Combined XI won toss)

COMBINED XI – First innings

Mohammad Ramzan b Giddins	3
Shahid Anwar c Pooley b Salisbury	15
*Shoaib Mohammad c Piper b Giddins	40
Azam Khan c Knight b Udal	55
Sohail Jaffar c McGrath b Irani	19
Mahmood Hamid c Knight b Salisbury	30
†Wasim Yousufi c Salisbury b Giddins	1
Nadeem Khan c Piper b Irani	10
Shahid Khan c Irani b Salisbury	11
Athar Laeeq not out	4
Taufiq Bader c & b Salisbury	0
Extras (b2, lb10, nb4)	16
Total (68 overs)	204

Fall: 1-17, 2-25, 3-108, 4-140, 5-146, 6-165, 7-188, 8-188, 9-201.

Bowling: Giddins 15-6-27-3; Smith 3.1-1-7-0; Irani 10.5-1-43-2; Salisbury 23-3-72-4; Udal 14-4-38-1; McGrath 2-0-5-0.

ENGLAND A – First innings

N V Knight not out	20
A McGrath not out	25
Extras (nb2)	2
Total (for 0, 19 overs)	47

To bat: *N Hussain, D P Ostler, J C Pooley, R C Irani, †K J Piper, I D K Salisbury, S D Udal, A M Smith, E S H Giddins.

Bowling: Athar Laeeq 5-3-4-0; Taufiq Bader 4-1-12-0; Shahid Khan 3-0-9-0; Nadeem Khan 5-1-16-0; Shoaib Mohammad 2-0-6-0.

Salim and May cross swords

Tim May, one of three Australian Test players to accuse Salim Malik of offering bribes, dismissed the former Pakistan captain yesterday in their first direct confrontation on the field since the scandal erupted.

Salim, who was cleared of the bribery charges last month, was stumped for 16 in Pakistan's tour match against South Australia. His departure left Pakistan struggling at 79 for 4 on the fourth and final day at the Adelaide Oval, but an unbeaten century by Basit Ali steered the tourists to a draw in their last match before the first Test against Australia, which starts in Brisbane on Thursday.

Chasing a target of 366 in three sessions, the tourists were 298 for 5 at the close. Basit, who scored *101 not out, shared a crucial century* partnership for the fifth wicket with Inzamam-ul-Haq, who was eventually trapped lbw by Mark Harrity for 96.

May, who has threatened to take legal action against anyone who suggests he concocted his charge against Salim, appeared jubilant when he dismissed the veteran right-handed batsman. Early in his spell, May appeared to have words with Salim as the two crossed paths in the middle after a Pakistan run.

May will not play in the first Test, having been replaced by the paceman Craig McDermott, who *returns* to the side for the first time since spraining an ankle during the tour of West Indies earlier this year. Michael Bevan, who enjoyed great success as Yorkshire's overseas player last season, and Ricky Ponting have been unable to displace Greg Blewett.

AUSTRALIA (v Pakistan, first Test, Adelaide Oval, Thursday): M A Taylor (New South Wales, capt), M J Slater (NSW), D C Boon (Tasmania), M E Waugh (NSW), S R Waugh (NSW), G R Blewett (South Australia), I A Healy (Queensland), P R Reiffel (Victoria), B P Julian (Western Australia), S K Warne (Victoria), C J McDermott (Queensland), G D McGrath (NSW).

Osborn hits a hat-trick

Hockey

Paddy Osborn, with three goals, kept Reading on course for their first National Championship title when they beat St Albans 6-1 to stay on maximum points at the top of the First Division, **writes Bill Colwill.** Grant Edwards, Jon Wyatt and Mark Pearn scored the others, with the Saints captain, Andy Halliday, getting their consolation.

Nicky Thompson scored twice as Old Loughtonians came from behind against Hounslow to win 3-1 to hold on to second place. At Saint Hill, Cannock also went a goal down before taking over to win 6-1 with Bobby Crutchley collecting his fourth hat-trick of the season.

In the women's National League on Saturday, a goal from the England manager, Jane Swinnerton-Ions, gave Sutton Canada Life a 1-0 win against Doncaster to go top, one point ahead of Hightown who won 4-1 at home to Bracknell.

Torrance challenges

Golf

Sam Torrance posted a second-round three-under-par 69 to move into joint fifth place in the Sarazen World Open in Braselton, Georgia, last night.

Torrance is one of four players – along with the New Zealander Frank Nobilo – on a total of 140, four strokes behind the leader, Miguel Angel Jimenez of Spain, who also scored a 69 to add to his first-round 67.

Jimenez leads by two strokes from the Open champion, John Daly (68), and his fellow Americans Craig Stadler (70) and Fuzzy Zoeller (71).

Michael Campbell, of New Zealand, took his first title yesterday when he decisively won the Alfred Dunhill Masters with a record-equalling final round of 65 in Jakarta.

England to go places

Basketball

Laszlo Nemeth, the England coach, is preparing his team for Sunday's European Championship game against Germany in Sheffield and then a trip to Portugal with a series of friendlies, **writes Duncan Hooper.**

England play the Netherlands tomorrow and either Lithuania or Finland on Wednesday. They then travel to Antwerp to play Belgium on Thursday as Nemeth tries to harden his players to face Germany, the European champions in 1993.

Trevor Gordon, recalled to the team after missing last month's defeats by Latvia and Estonia while in dispute with Manchester Giants, scored 27 points for his new club Birmingham Bullets in their 127-98 win at Newcastle Comets. Gordon is an essential addition, as Nemeth's impasse with Martin Henlan continues to rob England of the 6ft 10in centre and Spencer Dunkley remains injured.

SPORTING DIGEST

Badminton

HONG KONG OPEN Men's singles semi-finals: H Arbi (Indon) bt Lee Kwong Ip (S Kor) 5-15 15-7 15-6; A B Kusuma (Indon) bt M Lundgaard Hansen (Den) 15-4 15-3. **Final:** Arbi bt Kusuma 13-18 15-13 15-4. **Women's singles semi-finals:** Bang Soo Hyun (S Kor) bt Lim Xiaoqing (Swe) 11-5 11-1; M Audina (Indon) bt Ye Zhaoying (Chi) 8-11 12-10 11-4. **Final:** Bang Soo Hyun bt Audina 5-11 11-4 11-5.

Basketball

NBA (Friday): Indiana 111 Atlanta 106; Milwaukee 101 Boston 100; New York 106 Detroit 100; Orlando 99 Cleveland 88; Philadelphia 105 Washington 103; Chicago 105 Charlotte 91; Houston 110 Golden State 92; Dallas 103 San Antonio 97; Toronto 94 New Jersey 79; Utah 112 Seattle 94; Vancouver 92 Portland 80; LA Clippers 112 Phoenix 106; LA Lakers 98 Denver 96; Sacramento 95 Minnesota 86. **(Saturday):** Atlanta 124 Orlando 91; Charlotte 119 Philadelphia 108; Indiana 97 Toronto 89; Miami 85 Cleveland 71; Washington 100 Detroit 89; Chicago 107 Boston 85; Dallas 99 Golden State 84; New York 84 Milwaukee 71; San Antonio 116 Denver 108; Seattle 103 LA Lakers 89.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: London Towers 97 Doncaster 49; Thames Valley 108 Worthing 118; Hemel 59 Sheffield 84; Newcastle 98 Birmingham 127; Manchester 81 London Towers 76.

7-UP TROPHY (North): Derby 88 Leicester 66.

Bowls

HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL PAIRS COMPETITION (HK unless stated) Quarter-finals: N Burkott and D Piketh (SA) bt N Kennedy and A Poynton 26-14; R Price and P Rowlands (Wal) bt J Wong and T Chok 18-16; A Marshall and K Logan (Sco) bt D le Marquand and A Welch (Channel Is) 19-10; D Tso and B McMahon bt M McCormick and P Dalo (Zim) 24-21. **Semi-finals:** Burkett and Piketh bt Tso and McMahon 23-14; Marshall and Logan bt Price and Rowlands 24-10. **Final:** Marshall and Logan bt Burkett and Piketh 19-18.

Boxing

PROFESSIONAL PROMOTION (Caesars Palace, Las Vegas): 12-rd heavyweight: R Bowe (US) bt E Holyfield (US) ko 8th.

INTERNATIONAL BOXING FEDERATION LIGHT-WEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP (Sun City, SA): P Holiday (SA, holder) bt R Martinez (Mex) pts.

WORLD BOXING FEDERATION JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP (Bangkok, Thai): Samson Gym (Thai, holder) bt U Guzman (Dominican Rep) rsf 4th.

Cricket

TOUR MATCHES: Adelaide (final day of four): South Australia 392 for 8 dec (D Lehmann 138, T Nielsen 57, B Johnson 54) and 249 for 5 dec (G Blewett 103, J Siddons 125; Wasim Akram 4-43); Pakistan 276 (Basit Ali 64no) and 298 for 5 (Basit Ali 101no). **Match drawn. Hyderabad (final day of three):** New Zealand 454 for 4 dec (R G Twose 119 ret, M D Crowe 110, S P Fleming 65, C Cairns 75no) and 276 for 2 (S P Fleming 100no, A C Parore 96); Indian Colts XI 180. **Match drawn.**

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Hobart (third day of four): Tasmania 458 for 2 dec (D Hills 220 no, R Ponting 118no) and 290 for 3 dec; Queensland 377 for 1 (M Love 185no, M Hayden 152no) and 260 for 5 (S Law 107no). **Match drawn. Standings:** 1 New South Wales (P3, Pts12); 2 Queensland (1-6); 3 Western Australia (1-2); 4 Victoria (2-2); 5 Tasmania (2-2); 6 South Australia (1-0).

CASTLE CUP (Four day matches) Durban (third day): Natal 297 and 230 for 9 (A Hudson 93, M Bruyns 52; C Eksteen 4-55); Transvaal 259 (D Laing 56, K Rutherford 51; R Veenstra 5-77). **Port Elizabeth (third day):** Eastern Province 218 and 148 for 3 (G Victor 58); Free State 517 for 9 dec (F Stephenson 196, A Venter 91, O Jordaan 86, H Bakkes 54no). **Pretoria (second day):** Northern Transvaal 344 (A Seymore 124, G Smith 68); Western Province 227 for 4 (J Commins 94, O Haynes 71).

Cycling

Graeme Obree failed in his bid to break two national records in yesterday's British Federation International meeting in Manchester. Obree could not overcome a slow start and clocked 5min 36.488sec for a standing start 5km, falling more than a second short of the record set by Colin Sturgess in Stuttgart in 1991. Obree's time of 1:2.225 for a flying kilometre was more than three seconds outside Shaun Wallace's 1986 record set in Colorado.

TOUR OF CHINA (Peking) Sixth stage (25km time-trial): 1 V Ekimov (Rus) 25min 28sec; 2 S Hegg (US) +2sec; 3 S Mercier (US) +5. **Final overall standings:** 1 Ekimov 11hr 9min 23sec; 2 O Nardello (It) +2; 3 Hegg +11.

Darts

EMBASSY GOLD CUP (Stoke-on-Trent): Men's singles semi-finals: R Burnett (Glamorgan) bt D Ovens (Hertfordshire) 2-1; M King (Suffolk) bt G Jones (Somerset) 3-0. **Final:** King bt Burnett 2-0. **Pairs final:** King and P Wright (Suffolk) bt W Burtsfield and R Widdows 4-1. **Women's singles semi-finals:** D Hedman (Essex) bt C Gulliver (Warwickshire) 3-0; M Solomons (London) bt L Parry (Avon) 3-0. **Final:** Solomons bt Hedman 3-2. **Pairs final:** Solomons and S Edwards (London) bt K Andrews and N Dobinson (Durham) 3-2.

Equestrianism

VOLVO WORLD CUP QUALIFIER (Amsterdam): 1 Rodrigo Z (L Beerbaum, Ger) clear, 34.61sec; 2 Vordean (R-Y Bost, Fr) clear, 38.53; 3 Leroy Brown (W-J van der Schans, Neth) clear, 42.31. **GB:** 9 Everest Twostep (M Whitaker) 4 faults in first round. **Western European League standings:** 1 E van der Vleuten (Neth) 37pts; 2 O Lampard (GB) 33; 3 L Nieberg (Ger) 29.

Football

TRANSFERS: Jamie McQuilken (midfielder) Celtic to Dundee Utd (£150,000); Ray McKinnon (midfielder) Aberdeen to Dundee Utd (£200,000); Gilles Rousset (goalkeeper) Rennes (Fr) to Hearts (undisclosed); Pasquale Bruno (defender) Fiorentina (It) to Hearts (trial); Hans Eskilsson (forward) Vasalunds (Swe) to Hearts (trial).

Golf

SARAZEN WORLD OPEN (Braselton, Georgia) Leading early second-round scores: 136 M A Jimenez (Sp) 67 69. 138 J Daly 70 68 (US); C Stadler (US) 68 70; F Zoeller (US) 67 71. 140 S Torrance (Sco) 71 69; E Aubrey (US) 70 70; F Nobilo (NZ) 70 70; E Romero (Arg) 69 71. 141 E Els (SA) 71 70; M Calcavecchia (US) 71 70; A Forsbrand (Swe) 69 72, M O'Meara 73 68 (US). 142 M McNulty (Zimb) 72 70; R Goosen (SA) 70 72; L Parsons (Aus) 70 72; O Chopra (Swe) 68 74; P Walton (Ir) 70 72.

ALFRED DUNHILL MASTERS (Jakarta, Indon) Leading final scores (GB or Irl unless stated): 267 M Campbell (NZ) 69 66 68 65. 272 M Mouland 70 67 69 66; C Parry (Aus) 66 65 72 69. 276 S Appleby (Aus) 69 69 72 66. 276 V Grady (Aus) 72 70 68 66. 277 V Singh (Fiji) 72 72 67 66. 278 G Chalmers (Aus) 74 70 67 68. 279 M Granberg (Swe) 66 70 69 74. 284 I Woosnam 67 72 68 77.

KAPALUA INTERNATIONAL (Hawaii) Leading third-round scores (US unless stated): 201 J Furyk 65 65 71. 203 S Pate 71 67 65; J McGovern 66 69 68; H Irwin 68 67 68. 204 B Lane (GB) 66 69 69. 205 T Lehman 67 69 69; B Crenshaw 61 87 71; P Jacobsen 68 69 71. 206 B Claar 69 71 66; R Cochran 67 66 73; D Love 69 64 73. **Selected:** 209 J Adams 66 71 72; S Lyle (GB) 68 68 73.

DAIWA INTERNATIONAL (Tokyo) Leading final scores (Japan unless stated): 280 S Mori 71 67 69 73. 281 H Sasaki 72 73 71 65; O Ishii (US) 70 72 70 69. 281 S Higashi 72 73 70 67; K Idoki 71 71 70 70; M Kimura 71 65 71 75. 283 H Kusumoto 75 69 70 68; J Leonard (US). 73 69 71 70; S Maruyama 67 69 73 74. 284 P Senior (Aus) 74 69 72 69; J Kelly (US) 74 71 69 70. 285 P Mickelson (US) 73 70 68 74. 286 R Boxall (GB) 72 76 74 64; J Parnevik (Swe) 76 72 72 66.

Sweden's Annika Sorenstam tied for 23rd place on 216 in the US LPGA's final tournament of the season in Ohtsu, Japan, but became the 1995 leading money winner with $666,533. Sorenstam, the US Women's Open champion, also won the the Rolex Player of the Year Award and the Vare Trophy and was the leading money winner on the *European tour. Laura Davies tied* for 47th at 220

TORAY JAPAN QUEENS CUP (Ohtsu) Leading final scores (Japan unless stated): 207 Ko Woo Soon (S Kor) 69 67 71. 209 H Kobayashi 73 67 69; T Kimura 70 70 69; A Fukushima 67 74 69. 210 L Neumann (Swe) 74 68 69. 211 J Brlestanton (US) 72 70 69; N Yoshikawa 72 69 70; J Geddes (US) 72 69 70. 212 Ku Ok Hee (S Kor) 70 72 70. 213 B Daniel (US) 71 72 70; M Mallon (US) 72 71 70; P Wright (GB) 73 70 70. **Selected:** 215 H Alfredsson (Swe) 75 68 72. 218 A Sorenstam (Swe) 74 70 72. 220 L Davies (GB) 72 75 73.

Hockey

Saturday

NATIONAL LEAGUE First Division: Guildford 2 Southgate 3.

NASTRO AZZURRO SOUTH Premier: Ashford 2 Newbury 0; Beckenham 0 Gore Court 0; Bournemouth 2 Spencer 0; Lewes 1 High Wycombe 1; Maidenhead 1 Old Kingstonians 0; Old Walcountians 1 Wokingham 4; Oxford Hawks 4 Fareham 1; Wimbledon 1 Chichester 1; Winchester 3 Anchorians 2. **Leading positions:** 1 Oxford Hawks (P6, Pts14); 2 Gore Court (6-13); 3 Lewes (6-13).

ADNAMS EAST Premier: Bedford Town 2 Cambridge City 4; Bishop's Stortford 2 Bury St Edmunds 3; Chelmsford 0 Peterborough Town 3; Colchester 1 Cambridge Univ 1; Ipswich 4 Redbridge and Ilford 1. **Leading positions:** 1 Ipswich (P5, Pts15); 2 Cambridge City (5-10); 3 Peterborough Town (5-9)

***MIDLANDS Premier Division:** Belper 5 Bridgnorth* 1; Bloxwich 2 *Khalsa* 2; John Player 1 Harborne 2; North Notts 0 Hampton-in-Arden 1; Nottingham 2 Loughborough Students 1. **Leading positions:** 1 Nottingham (P5, Pts13); 2 Hampton-in-Arden (5-12); 3 Harborne (5-11).

SUNLIFE WEST OF ENGLAND AND SOUTH WALES Premier: Bath Bucs 2 Exeter Univ 0; Cheltenham 0 Plymouth 1; Swansea 3 Taunton Vale 1; Weston-super-Mare 1 Robinsons 6; Whitchurch 3 Bristol Univ 2. **Leading positions:** 1 Bath Bucs (P5, Pts2); 2 Weston-super-Mare (5-12); 3 Robinsons (5-9).

NORTH Premier: Formby 3 Timperley 0; Halton 0 Sheffield Bankers 2; Harrogate 1 Ben Rhydding 2; Southport 2 Neston 2; Warrington 0 Norton 0. **Leading positions:** 1 Ben Rhydding (P5, Pts15); 2 Formby (5-12); 3 Warrington (5-10).

LACE MAWER NORTH WEST First Division: Bebington 3 Preston 2; Bowdon 2 Didsbury Norton 4; Colwyn Bay 2 Liverpool Sefton 1; Lytham St Annes 7 Warrington 0; Macclesfield 4 Glaxo 0; Manchester Univ 2 Cheetham Hill 2; Neston 3 West Derby 0; Northop Hall 1 Morecambe 0; Prescot 0 Deeside Ramblers 2; Winnington Park 1 Manchester 1. **Leading positions:** 1 Lytham St Annes (P5, Pts15); 2 Northop Hall (5-13); 3 Macclesfield (5-12).

WOMEN'S NATIONAL League Premier: Balsam Leicester 2 Clifton 1; Hightown 4 Bracknell 1; Slough 1 Ipswich 0; Sutton Canada Life 1 Doncaster 0. **Leading positions:** 1 Sutton Canada Life (P5, Pts11); 2 Hightown (5-10); 3 Clifton (5-10). **First Division:** Blueharts 1 Trojans 2; Canterbury 3 Bradford Swithenbank 1; Sunderland Bodons 1 Chelmsford 1; Wimbledon 2 Exmouth 0. **Leading positions:** 1 Trojans (P5, Pts15); 2 Canterbury (5-15), 3 Chelmsford (5-8). **Second Division:** *Loughborough Students* 4 Sherwood 0; Olton 4 Ealing 2; Reading 3 St Albans 1; Woking 1 Aldridge 0. **Leading positions:** 1 Olton (P5, *Pts15*); 2 Loughborough Students (5-7); 3 *St Albans* (5-7).

WOMEN'S MIDLAND Premier: *Balsam Leicester* 1 Hampton in Arden 1; Kettering 5 Pickwick 0; *Peveril* 0 Crimson Ramblers 3; Tamworth 0 Bedford 3. **Leading positions:** 1 Kettering (P5, Pts13); 2 Crimson Ramblers (5-13); 3 Bedford (5-10).

WOMEN'S NORTH First Division: Blackburn 1 York 0; Carlisle 0 Sheffield 2; Don Valley 2 Newcastle 5; Liverpool 0 Poynton 1. **Leading positions:** 1 Blackburn (P5, Pts15); 2 Poynton (5-10); 3 Sheffield (5-8).

WOMEN'S SOUTH First Division: Camberley 0 Dulwich 1; City of Portsmouth 0 Southampton 0; Hampstead and Westminster 3 Hendon 0; Winchester 1 Winchmore Hill 0; Worthing 0 West Witney 1. **Leading positions:** 1 West Witney (P5, Pts12); 2 Dulwich (5-11); 3 Winchester (5-10).

WOMEN'S WEST Premier: Bournemouth 2 Redland 0; Colwall 2 Leominster 0; St Austell 0 Wimborne Wayfarers 2; Yate 1 Cheltenham 2. **Leading positions:** 1 Bournemouth (P5, Pts13); 2 Cheltenham (5-11); 3 Wimborne Wayfarers (4-9).

WOMEN'S TRYSPORTS THREE COUNTIES First Division: Bracknell 3 Sonning 2; Farnham Common 0 Oxford Univ 2; Milton Keynes 6 Marlow 2; Ranelagh 2 Wycombe Rye 2; Reading 0 Henley 1; Wokingham 0 Oxford Hawks 1. **Leading positions:** 1 Bracknell (P3, Pts9); 2 Oxford Hawks (3-9); 3 Henley (3-6).

Yesterday

SULTAN AZLAN SHAH CUP (Kuala Lumpur, Malay): Final: India 2 Germany 2.

NATIONAL LEAGUE First Division: Canterbury 4 Havant 0; East Grinstead 1 Cannock 6; Hull 0 Surbiton 2; Indian Gymkhana 4 Bournville 2; Old Loughtonians 3 Hounslow 1; St Albans 1 Reading 6; Stourport 3 Teddington 5; Trojans 2 Barford Tigers 2. **Leading positions:** 1 Reading (P5, Pts15); 2 Old Loughtonians (5-13); 3 Cannock (5-12). **Second Division:** City of Portsmouth 0 Sheffield 2; Doncaster 3 Crosby 1; Edgbaston 0 Hampstead and Westminster 1; Gloucester City 3 Firebrands 1; Harleston Magpies 3 Olton and West Warwick 0; Isca 3 Bromley 1; Oxford Univ 2 Brooklands 2; Richmond 2 Beeston 5; Slough 2 Bluharts 2. **Leading positions:** 1 Beeston (P5, Pts15); 2 Bluharts (5-11); 3 Hampstead and Westminster (5-10).

AEWHA CUP Second round: Anchorians 1 Broxbourne 1 *(Broxbourne won 5-4 aps)*; Ashford (Kent) 1 Horsham 0; Atlanta 0 City of Portsmouth 2; Bingley 1 Billingham 2; Bournemouth 0 Lansdown 0 *(Bournemouth won 4-1 aps)*; Camberley 2 Winchmore Hill 0; Cambridge Univ 3 Dorchester 1; Chinnock 2 Shrewsbury 1; Cheltenham 1 West Witney 0; Cheshunt 0 Norwich City 1; Chester 0 Blackburn 2; Copdock 1 Old Loughtonians 4, Crimson Ramblers 4 Lincoln Imps 0; Crosby 2 Leyland Motors 5; Deeside Ramblers 0 Liverpool 1; Dudley 2 Craven Arms 0; Eastcote 0 Dulwich 1, East Gloucester 1 Winchester 2; Exeter 2 St Austell 1; *Falmouth* 0 Penzance 2; Farnborough 7 Bromley 0; Gloucester City 0 Havant 3; Harleston Magpies w/o Letchworth, *Harrow* 0 Wokingham 0 *(Harrow won 1-0 aps)*; Hendon 1 Gravesend 1 *(Hendon won 4-1 aps)*; Kings Heath 0 Leominster 4; Luton Town 7 Waltham Forest 0, Maidenhead 7 Folkestone Optimists 0; Matlock Barleans 0 York 7; Newcastle 5 Caledonians 0; Norwich Union 0 Peterborough 0 *(Peterborough won 5-4 aps)*; Poynton 9 Ambleside 0; Redbridge and Ilford 1 Teddington 0; Rover Cowley 3 Yate 1; Sevenoaks 1 Welwyn Garden City 1 (Sevenoaks won 3-2 aps); Sheffield 1 North Staffs 2; Southampton 5 Wycombe Rye 0; Towcestrians 0 Hampton in Arden 7; Tulse Hill 4 Newbury 0; Winnington Park 1 Pickwick 0.

Ice hockey

NHL: (Friday) Buffalo 3 Pittsburgh 3 (o/t); Tampa Bay 5 NY Islanders 3; Florida 3 Washington 2; Colorado 5 Winnipeg 2; Anaheim 7 NY Rangers 4; Vancouver 4 Toronto 4 (o/t). **(Saturday)** Detroit 5 Dallas 1; Washington 3 NY Islanders 2; Pittsburgh 7 Philadelphia 4; Edmonton 3 Toronto 3 (o/t); Montreal 4 Boston 1; Hartford 5 Ottawa 4; New Jersey 4 Los Angeles 2; San Jose 7 St Louis 3; Calgary 4 Vancouver 4.

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP Semi-final second leg: Sheffield Steelers 6 Fife Flyers 3 (o/t; *Sheffield win 9-8 on agg*).

Motor racing

INTERNATIONAL ENDURANCE GT CHAMPIONSHIP (Zhuhai, Ch) 12th round (384km, 238.617 miles): 1 A Wallace (GB) and O Grouillard (Fr) McLaren F1 GTR 3hr 1min 24.750sec (ave speed 133.35kph, 82.86389mph); 2 J Nielsen (Den) and T Bscher (Ger) McLaren F1 GTR 3:02:09.158; 3 F Giroix (Fr) and J-D Deletraz (Swit) McLaren F1 GTR 94 laps completed; 4 E Calderan and L Bryner (Swit) Porsche 911 Turbo 90 laps; 5 J-L Maury-Laribiere and J-P Libert (Fr) Porsche 911 Turbo 88 laps; 6 E Clerico (Fr) and Y Hana (Japan) Porsche 911 Turbo 85 laps; 7 A Lu, A Lo (HK), B Whilock (GB) Porsche 911 Turbo 79 laps; 8 M Cotbot and P Smaniotto (Fr) Porsche 911 Turbo 79 laps; 9 M Goddard (GB), P Ma (Hong Kong), M Pickup (GB) Porsche 911 Turbo 79 laps; 10 F Smickler and E Schuster (Don) Porsche 911 Turbo 76 laps. **Fastest lap:** Nielsen, 1 minute 45.653 seconds (143.11 kph). **Leading final standings:** 1 Nielsen and Bscher 252pts; 2 Bryner and Calderan 205; 3 R Belm (GB) and M Sala (Bra) McLaren F1 GTR 201.

Netball

TEST SERIES (Wembley): England 52 Cook Islands 44.

Pools news

DIVIDEND FORECAST: Very low, winnings sent automatically. **Score Draws:** 5, 11, 17, 19, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 34, 37, 41, 51, 52. **No-Score Draws:** 2, 28, 31, 35, 38. **Void:** 53.

Rowing

FULLER'S HEAD OF RIVER FOURS (Mortlake to Putney, River Thames): 1 *Leander I* (Quadruple scull: S Redgrave, M Pinsent, J Cracknell, B Thatcher) 18min 39sec; 2 University of London/Molesey (Senior II quad: J Searle, G Searle, R Obholzer, T Foster).

Rugby Union

TOUR MATCH (Beziers, Fr): Languedoc-Roussillon 9 New Zealand 30.

Sailing

MDL WINTER SERIES (Hamble): CHS1: A Steward (Ronstan). **CHS 4:** P Pym (Rooster). **CHS 5:** C Hawkes (Olivia Anne IV). **CHS 6:** M Moody (Shallot). **Sportboats:** S Thomas (Kiss the Pink).

Sigma 38: G Logan (Highlander). **Sigma 33:** J Perry (Firestorm); **J24:** J Anderson (Tiger). **Melges 24:** M Humphries (Trax). **Folkboat:** J Tufnell (Gremlin).

Snooker

ROTHMANS GRAND PRIX (Malta) Semi-final: J Higgins (Sco) bt D Morgan (Wal) 6-2.

Tennis

Martin Lee, of Sussex, defeated Arvind Parmar, of Herts, 6-1, 6-2, yesterday in the final of an International Tennis Federation world 18 and under circuit tournament in Tokyo.

GUARDIAN DIRECT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (Telford) Men's singles semi-finals: T Henman (Oxon) bt J Bates (Surrey) 6-2 6-1; G Rusedski (unatt) bt M Petchey (Essex) 6-4 6-4. **Final:** Henman bt Rusedski 1-6 6-3 6-2. **Doubles final:** Bates and Henman bt M Maclagan (W of Scotland) and A Richardson (Lincs) 6-3 1-6 13-11. **Women's singles final:** C Wood (Sussex) bt S Smith (Essex) 6-2 6-2. **Doubles final:** S-A Siddall (Dorset) and A Wainwright (Essex) bt J Pullin (Sussex) and L Woodroffe (Surrey) 6-4 6-2.

PARIS OPEN MEN'S INDOOR TOURNAMENT Semi-finals: B Becker (Ger) bt W Ferreira (SA) 6-2 6-1; P Sampras (US) bt J Courier (US) 6-4 3-6 6-3. **Final:** Sampras bt Becker 7-6 6-4 6-4.

ATP TOPPER OPEN (Montevideo, Urug) Singles quarter-finals: B Ulibrach (Cz Rep) bt K Alami (Mor) 6-1 6-3; F Clavet (Sp) bt H Gumy (Arg) 7-6 6-1; J Burillo (Sp) bt F Meligeni (Bra) 6-2 1-6 6-2; A Berasategui (Sp) bt M Filippini (Urug) 6-2 6-1.

BANK OF THE WEST CLASSIC (Oakland, Calif) Semi-finals: A Sugiyama (Japan) bt L Davenport (US) default; M Maleeva (Bul) bt M J Fernandez (US) 6-7 6-2 6-4.

BELL CHALLENGE WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Quebec) Semi-finals: B Schultz-McCarthy (Neth) bt L Lee (US) 6-4 6-7 7-6; O Monami (Bel) bt R Stubbs (Aus) 6-2 6-4.

CHAMPIONS TOURNAMENT (Tokyo) Semi-finals: J Connors (US) bt J Lloyd (GB) 6-2 6-4; B Borg (Swe) bt J McEnroe (US) 7-6 7-6. **Final:** Connors bt Borg 2-6 6-2 7-6. **Doubles final:** McEnroe, and J Kriek (SA) bt Borg and A Gomez (Ecu) 7-6 6-0.

FIXTURES

Football

7.30 unless stated

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
Nottingham Forest v Wimbledon (8.0).

FA UMBRO TROPHY Second qualifying round replay: Ruislip Manor v Wembley.

ICIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Purfleet v Braveham Wood (7.45).

UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Winsford v Bamber Bridge.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division: Clitheroe v Burscough.

PONTINS LEAGUE Second Division: Leicester v Middlesbrough (7.0); Port Vale v Huddersfield (7.0).

FA YOUTH CUP First round: Rotherham v Hartlepool (7.0); Newcastle v Blackpool (7.0) (at Gateshead); Derby v Scunthorpe (7.0); Doncaster v Hull City (7.0); Wycombe v Watford (7.45); Shrewsbury v Cambridge Utd (7.0); Southampton v Oxford Utd; Sutton Utd v Eastleigh (7.45); Dulwich Hamlet v Exeter.

Rugby Union

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Central Glamorgan Under-21 v New Zealand Under-21 (7.0) (at Aberavon).

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RUGBY UNION: Referee criticised as free-flowing Harlequins are frustrated at The Stoop where Tigers sacrifice style for practicality

Leicester opt for the functional

STEVE BALE

COMMENTARY

A kindly description of Leicester's rugby is functional and, as they showed last season, functionalism can even win titles. But when it comes to rugby's occasional capacity for uplifting the heart and soul – and no, there has not been too much of it in the Courage Championship this season – *they don't*.

Which is to say they do not do so often enough. The fantastic try with which they had completed the previous defeat of Bristol might just as well have been a mirage for all the relevance it had to their 29-25 win over Harlequins at The Stoop. Churlish as it may seem to complain when a job has been done, this is nothing like what Leicester's coaches consistently lead us to believe is their design.

The exchanges did not lack stimulation, partly because the score was so close and partly because of the amount of free running Harlequins did, not least Will Carling until he cricked his neck near the end. (Neil Back was not so fortunate: he cracked a rib.)

On the other hand, this was another example of the low skills inherent even at this exalted level of club rugby, as well as the inability of English referees to take the broad view of a match instead of dutifully concentrating on specifics.

One or two Quins were inflamed afterwards at the way Jerry Wallis persistently penalised them in the tackle. More to the point, I should have thought, was the peremptory whistling which so badly stifled advantage. Three line-out penalties to the side who had just secured the ball were both symptomatic and enough to make you scream.

Some did. Keith Richardson, Quins' coach, may have contented himself with a few diplomatic remarks about not getting the better of the referee's decisions but, in private, at least one very senior Harlequin with a direct line over the road to Twickenham was spluttering with fury.

In practical terms, Harlequins destroyed themselves by missing their chances and being so persistently penalised. It handed the game to John Liley, who is in such sweet kicking form that he landed all five of his penalties, as well as converting both of Leicester's tries.

I suppose it could be argued that, when you have such a prolific provider, the imperative for tries simply does not exist. How else to square the consistently expressed aspiration of Leicester coaches with their team's drab product. The Tigers are changing from lettering to numbering in a fortnight, but will they change their stripes?

Perhaps the players do not perceive the dichotomy, because afterwards the self-criticism of the acting captain, Rory Underwood, was aimed at Leicester's defence and not their attack. Rory was the lucky one: Harlequins created the conditions not only for their tries by Chris Sheasby, Peter Mensah and Daren O'Leary, but did the same for Underwood when Rob Kitchin's pass intended for Carling was intercepted by the England wing.

Otherwise, it was familiar stuff. A calf injury meant the discarded England No 8, Dean Richards, was absent, but with or without him Leicester should not be expected to do other than shove their way over at a short-range scrum – except that Mick Watson dived in to concede a penalty try before Richards' deputy, Chris Tarbuck, could touch down.

It was not an auspicious day for the abrasive Watson, who received a yellow card for stamping on Aadel Kardooni's leg in the first half and had to do emergency second-row duty for all of the second after Peter Thresher's departure. But prone as he is to various forms of ill-discipline, he is also a dynamic forward and his buccaneering mobility epitomised how Quins, pack as well as backs, set out to attack.

The contrast was more or less complete. "You come away thinking: 'Is that what the game is about?' And it is. To get two league points against us, it is," Richardson lamented. "I don't think Harlequins, even if we gave them £1m a match, could ever play like that. It is alien to the club and alien to their nature."

To see what he means, we have to go back to a period of Harlequins ascendancy during the second half when they moved the ball to left and right, won a ruck or three and were poised for tries when a Tiger, on the logical premise that three points conceded are better than seven, would illicitly launch himself over the ball. Richardson, a partial witness, suggested a penalty try or, failing that, a yellow card.

On the first occasion, the ball was back in Kitchin's hands and ready for further recycling when Wallis intervened, a frustration doubled when Paul Challinor blazed a long way wide from in front of the posts. The second time he did not repeat the blunder, although his body-language as he reluctantly stepped up to place the ball betokened a considerable crisis of confidence.

It was a perverse performance by Challinor who, although the England A outside-half only last year, was discarded by Quins as soon as David Pears was restored to well-being. In Pears' renewed absence, Challinor alternated between unfamiliar bravura and abject misery. So, in his way, he epitomised Harlequins.

They remain third, and Leicester's prosaic practicality maintains them two points behind Bath and now four ahead of Quins. Perhaps they are showing a Bath-style capacity for winning when in difficulty, and perhaps people should therefore be less censorious. Or perhaps not. "I thought I guarded my words pretty well," Richardson added, before uttering a derogatory expletive as soon as the tape-recorders had been switched off.

Harlequins: Tries Sheasby, Mensah, O'Leary. **Conversions** Challinor 2; **Penalties** Challinor 2. **Leicester: Try** Underwood. **Conversions** Liley 2; **Penalties** Liley 5.

Harlequins: C Wright; D O'Leary, [illegible] (A Jones, 75), P Mensah, W Greenwood; P Challinor, R Kitchin (capt); [illegible], S Mitchell, A Mullins, A Snow, P Thresher, [illegible] (D Allison, 38), M Watson, C Sheasby, [illegible] Jenkins.

Leicester: J Liley; S Hackney, I Boyce, [illegible] Robinson, R Underwood (capt); N Malan, [illegible] Kardooni; G Rowntree, R Cockerill, [illegible] Worsfold, M Johnson, M Poole, J Wells, C Tarbuck, N Back (J Wingham, 52).

Referee: J Wallis (Bridgwater).

Catch a Tiger by his tail: Harlequins try in vain to stop a Leicester advance on Saturday

Photograph: Peter Jay

Clubs fear spread of 'double standards'

BILL LEITH

Boroughmuir	18
Hawick	19

Peter Wright, the Boroughmuir captain, will learn tomorrow whether, when he opened his mouth to lambast the referee Ken McCartney and get sent off, he also blew a £2,000 international match fee, which is still to be formally announced.

A vacancy has been left in the Scotland team to face Western Samoa pending a hearing which is attracting the attention of junior clubs aggrieved at what they claim are double standards on the part of Scottish Rugby Union disciplinary panels.

Penicuik have written to the SRU questioning why one of their colts was banned for nearly a year when a First Division player received six weeks for what seemed a similar head butting offence. St Boswell's, who had a player sent off for dissent on the same day as Wright, are watching closely, and Earlston have complained to the National League Association that one of their players had to wait six weeks for his case to be heard and was suspended for a month.

Some Boroughmuir supporters believe justice has been served and the club has paid the price for their captain's misbehaviour with a surprisingly flat display against Hawick, who have won five of their last six games. Instead of going into their last three League games three points clear, Boroughmuir are a point ahead of Melrose and Stirling County.

If Wright had been leading the side, there might have been less inclination to entrust possession to a back division lacking penetration in the face of inspirational tackling.

His team-mate Sean Lineen acknowledged: "Ironically, Peter was missed mainly because of his voice. He keeps us on our toes."

Boroughmuir: Tries Stark, Wallace; **Conversion** Easson; **Penalties** Easson 2. **Hawick: Tries** Sharp, Suddon; **Penalties** Welsh 2.

Boroughmuir: N Mandon; D Stark, D Lord (capt), S Lineen, I Tukalo (D Macrae, 18); G Easson, G Bevenger; G Wilson, N Dickson, L Graham, O Burns, D George, F Wallace, S Red, G Dickson.

Hawick: C Turnbull; G Sharp, O Grant, W Coltman, K Suddon; S Welsh (P Stanger, 65), K Reed; M Russell, J Hay; B McDonnell, A Barnes, I Elliot, D Turnbull, B Renwick (capt), G Allott.

Referee: R Megson (Edinburgh Wanderers).

How Cobblers fell on their feet

Northampton are up and running after their relegation. **David Llewellyn** saw them defeat London Scottish 54-11

A lot of old cobblers has been spouted this season about playing an open expansive game. At Northampton they don't waste time shooting the breeze, they go out and blast aside their Second Division rivals with the brand of running rugby that so many aspire to but so few manage.

They have come a long way since the fall from the First Division last season.

Firstly, all the key players decided to stick with the club and help them bounce straight back. Secondly, the squad returned for pre-season training a month earlier than usual and got themselves fit. Thirdly, masterminded by Ian McGeechan, they worked out how they wanted to play the game. The result is an awesome record, a stunning and entertaining style of play, leadership of the Second Division and massive support.

Generally crowds are around 5,000 — there were 7,500 for the visit of second-placed London Scottish — to watch the Saints march all over their opponents to the tune of eight tries and an average of 52 points per game, while conceding a steady 11. But this is a far from average club. There are plenty in the First Division who would not withstand their dynamism.

They are not where they are simply by being big fish in a little pond. Today's Pilkington Cup fourth-round draw will have top sides keeping their fingers crossed that they avoid being pitched against Northampton, home or away.

It is a very different side from that which was relegated. There has been an injection of verve in the backs — Scots Gregor Townsend and Michael Dods and Ireland's Jonathan Bell — and a far harder attitude. "I'm not interested in anyone walking out there on the field," McGeechan said, "they've got to be running for 80 minutes."

The former Scotland and British Lions player and coach underlined the major changes that have taken place. "We are far more dynamic," McGeechan explained. "We work harder, we are much fitter and the players are thinking on the right lines. I changed tactically what I wanted us to do and I think everyone is more comfortable with it."

Everyone except their opponents. Throughout a match that could have been a Scotland trial, there were so many of them involved — even one of the touch judges had the surname Airdrie — the Exiles tried to keep up but eventually they cracked. Grant Seely and Harvey Thorneycroft had already run in first-half tries, then scrum-half Matt Dawson burst through from a 50th-minute tap penalty to himself. The dam burst right about then.

Wave after wave of attacks brought a flood of points. Scottish had no answer to the rapid rucking and high-class handling of the 15 Saints. Five more tries followed, including a hat-trick for Scotland centre Townsend. All but one of the tries were converted by fly-half Paul Grayson.

Saints' policy of running every kickable penalty — "I'm quite happy to forgo three points, if it gives the players confidence to attack with the ball in hand," McGeechan said — apart from exhausting the opposition, gives Grayson little opportunity of scoring with the boot, so it is in his interests to get his backs going, then he can add the conversion to the resultant tries. It works.

Northampton: Tries Seely, Thorneycroft 2, Dawson, Townsend 3, Phillips; **Conversions** Grayson 7. **London Scottish: Try** Signorini; **Penalties** Russell 2.

Northampton: M Dods; N Beal, G Townsend, M Allen, H Thorneycroft; P Grayson, M Dawson; M Volland, T Beddow, M Hynes, J Phillips, M Bayfield, T Rodber (capt) (D Merlin, 71), B Pountney, G Seely.

London Scottish: G Fraser; T Watson, F Harrold, R Eriksson (S Pearson, 40), M Sly; C Russell, T Withers-Green; O Signorini, L Mair, P Burnell, A Nesbitt, D Orr-Ewing, M Duthie, S Holmes (capt), I Morrison.

Referee: B Campsall (Halifax).

Fan 'stable but critical'

The fan whose suspected heart attack led to the abandonment of Saturday's Wasps against West Hartlepool game was stable but critical in the intensive care unit at Northwick Park Hospital, north-west London, yesterday.

The middle-aged man, who has not been named but is from the London area, collapsed with 12 minutes of the game remaining and Wasps leading 24-16.

Rob Wainwright, the Hartlepool No 8 who is a doctor in the army, went into the stand to help revival attempts, along with the club's physiotherapist Nick Matthews and a paramedic. "There was no way the match could go on and I hope the man will make a full recovery," Wainwright said.

A replay is likely as both clubs are in favour. In addition, league rules allow a match abandoned for reasons other than weather to have its result decided by the organising committee, who can also request that the game be replayed.

Bath rebound in thriller

PAUL STEPHENS

Sale	18
Bath	30

The marketing men would have us believe that rugby union can never be a saleable product until the laws are changed to make it more like rugby league.

Not before the 15-man code is freed up and the ball kept in play for longer will it be truly televisual and attract worthwhile audiences. But, unlike league, rugby union is a multi-dimensional game which can be compelling to watch, especially when two teams are committed to a fluid, expansive game as the means of victory, never mind any obligation to entertain.

Perhaps the marketeers and the law revisionists should spend more time in the Northwest before pressing their demands. Seven days earlier Orrell and Wasps had staged a nine-try thriller at Edgehall Road. On Saturday, Sale and Bath regaled a capacity crowd with a contest of added quality and, for 74 minutes at least, one of even greater excitement.

The sunlit afternoon was perfectly still, the pitch freshly-mown. "If we can't play here in conditions like this, we may as well go home," John Hall, Bath's team manager, said.

When it was time to leave, Bath were in possession of both points, their unbeaten record intact. Hall's acknowledgement of their opponents was generous.

"Sale were the best team we have played this season," he said. "At one stage, the result was slipping away from us. But we've got the knack of lifting our game in the final 10 minutes and that rescued us."

Before the visit of Gloucester, Sale will need rescuing from the realisation that, just as they did in September when they had Leicester by the throat, they once again let a prized prey escape.

Sale scored the only try of the first half when Jim Mallinder pierced Bath's cover after Paul Turner and Jos Baxendell masterfully exploited Neil Ashurst's drive to the posts. Rob Liley converted, and he and Jonathan Callard each kicked two penalties for Sale to reach the break deservedly ahead at 13-6.

Sale responded immediately to Audley Lumsden's try with an audacious score by Baxendell, in which Turner inevitably had a hand. But, crucially, Liley had fluffed an easy penalty and hit the upright with the conversion. So instead of being 10 points clear they only five in hand.

It was enough to give Bath a glimmer of hope. With six minutes remaining Callard skipped across for a try. Lumsden got his second and Callard converted both and kicked a third penalty. It completed a remarkable scoring sequence to end a brilliant piece of sporting theatre which, at under a tenner, was marvellous value for money.

Sale: Tries Mallinder, Baxendell; **Conversion** Liley; **Penalties** Liley 2. **Bath: Tries** Lumsden 2, Callard; **Conversions** Callard 3; **Penalties** Callard 3.

Sale: J Mallinder (capt); R Liley, J Baxendell, G Higginbotham, C Yates; P Turner, M Warr; A Yates (M Rafferty, 75), S Diamond, A Smith, J Fowler, D Baldwin (D Erskine, 58), N Ashurst, P Hewitt, C Vyvyan.

Bath: J Callard; A Lumsden, P de Glanville (capt), J Guscott, A Adebayo; R Butland, I Sanders; D Hilton, G Dawe, V Ubogu, M Haag, N Redman, S Ojomoh, A Robinson, B Clarke.

Referee: C Rees (Twickenham).

Jenkins shows Fiji the way

ROB COLE

Pontypridd	31
Fiji	13

No wonder Brad Johnstone, the Fijian technical adviser, has gone down on bended knee to Frano Botica and asked him to join his coaching staff this week to help cure his side's biggest problem area, goalkicking.

In nearly all other phases the Fijians have proved they are capable of competing at a very high level. Their discipline still needs some fine tuning and their scrum could be tighter, but neither fault compares with that in the kicking department. In five matches they have now missed 33 shots at goal. Against Wales A, even the lock Iferemi Tawake took the final conversion.

There was only one success out of six goal attempts at Sardis Road, a penalty from the full-back Joetani Waqa which gave the tourists a 13th-minute lead, and unless they can improve their appalling ratio they seem doomed to failure in Saturday's international against Wales.

That is why Johnstone has called on the expert services of Botica, the former Wigan goalkicker, to help him out in the build up to the Test.

"I just can't understand it. In training the three kickers we have been using just don't seem to miss, yet when they get out on the paddock it all goes wrong," Johnstone said.

"I still think we are in there with a shot for the international and I know that our top XV can be very competitive. It would just be nice if we could cure our kicking problems."

Johnstone must have cast envious eyes at Neil Jenkins as he helped himself to 16 points to steer Pontypridd to a notable victory. For the Welsh No 10 it was not just a warm-up for the international, but a statement of intent that he is ready to rise to any challenge for his Test place mounted by the return of Jonathan Davies.

Jenkins also controlled the tactics well, although it was the home pack that did the damage. A brilliant driving maul from a line-out won by Mark Rowley brought the first try, and a rock solid scrum allowed a blindside raid by the back row to set up the wing David Manley for the second.

The centre Steele Lewis rounded off the tourists' heaviest defeat to date this tour with a try on the stroke of time, but Saturday could still be a different story.

Pontypridd: Tries Phil John, Manley, S Lewis; **Conversions** Jenkins 2; **Penalties** Jenkins 4. **Fiji: Tries** Bari, Rokobuliwai; **Penalty** Waqa.

Pontypridd: C Cormack; D Manley, J Lewis, S Lewis, G Jones; N Jenkins, Paul John (N Lloyd 63); N Bezant (capt), Phil John, N Eynon, G Prosser, M Rowley, M Spiller, M Lloyd (R Collins 63), P Thomas.

Fiji: J Waqa; E Bolobolo, W Rokobuliwai, R Bogese, M Bari; O Turuva, J McLennan; S Sadrie, E Battimala, V Cavubati, A Nadolo, I Vatureva, T Tamanivalu (W Masirewa 47), S Vonokaji (capt), M Korovou.

Referee: R McDowell (Ireland).

■ France have recalled the stand-off Alain Penaud for the opening Test against New Zealand in Toulouse on Saturday. The selectors turned to him after the first-choice stand-off, Christophe Deylaud, said he needed a break. It will be the 20th international appearance for Penaud, who was dropped after France were beaten by England in Paris in the 1994 Five Nations Championship.

WEEKEND RESULTS AND TABLES

CIS Insurance Series
Tour Match

Pontypridd	31	Fiji	13

Pilkington Cup third round

Bridlington	13	Warrington Pk	17
Coventry	78	Stourbridge	20
Exeter	17	Redruth	15
Leeds	12	Fylde	5
Lewes	10	Camberley	40
London Welsh	27	Richmond	12
Macclesfield	35	Walsall	36
Met Police	10	Reading	27
Otley	31	Rugby	40
Tabard	17	Lydney	19
Weston-s-Mare	19	Henley	18
Worcester	24	Liverpool St H	8

Courage Clubs' Championship
National League One

Bristol	33	Orrell	14
Harlequins	25	Leicester	29
Sale	18	Bath	30
Saracens	19	Gloucester	16
Wasps	24	W Hartlepool	16

(abandoned after 68min)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bath	9	9	0	0	294	127	18
Leicester	9	8	0	1	217	100	16
Harlequins	9	6	0	3	213	177	12
Bristol	9	5	0	4	176	208	10
Wasps	8	4	0	4	188	151	8
Sale	9	4	0	5	164	161	8
Orrell	9	4	0	5	140	193	8
Saracens	9	3	0	6	132	247	6
Gloucester	9	1	0	8	132	217	2
W Hartlepool	8	0	0	8	118	192	0

(not including Wasps v West Hartlepool)

National League Two

Bedford	20	Nottingham	12
Blackheath	9	Moseley	27
Newcastle	19	L Irish	23
Northampton	54	L Scottish	11
Wakefield	14	Waterloo	6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northampton	9	9	0	0	474	100	18
L Scottish	9	7	1	1	193	150	15
L Irish	9	7	0	2	300	181	14
Moseley	9	5	0	4	143	184	10
Blackheath	9	3	1	5	163	240	7
Bedford	9	3	1	5	178	267	7
Waterloo	9	3	1	5	118	230	7
Wakefield	9	3	0	6	138	163	6
Nottingham	9	2	0	7	132	204	4
Newcastle	9	1	0	8	142	260	2

Heineken Welsh League
First Division

Saturday

Ebbw Vale	24	Newbridge	12
Llanelli	30	Bridgend	24
Neath	63	Aberthaw	17
Treorchy	25	Newport	31

Yesterday

Cardiff	57	Aberavon	9

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Cardiff	9	8	0	1	332	137	42	13	29
Llanelli	8	6	0	2	258	113	36	12	24
Pontypridd	8	7	0	1	282	126	33	10	24
Neath	9	5	1	2	198	96	30	8	19
Bridgend	9	4	0	5	233	191	31	10	18
Swansea	7	4	0	3	252	139	35	9	17
Newport	9	6	1	2	175	204	16	3	16
Newbridge	9	4	0	5	143	187	17	3	11
Ebbw Vale	9	4	0	5	156	233	15	1	9
Aberavon	9	1	0	8	140	359	15	3	5
Treorchy	8	0	0	8	142	288	16	3	3
Abertillery	9	1	0	8	116	357	11	1	3

Second Division

Aberdare	10	Dunvant	36
Bonymaen	40	Tenby Utd	12
Cross Keys	29	Pontypool	23
Llanharan	24	S Wales Police	27
Maesteg	12	Caerphilly	22
Ystradgynlais	7	Llandovery	3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Dunvant	9	8	0	1	232	82	31	9	25
Pontypool	9	7	0	2	235	139	29	7	21
Caerphilly	9	6	0	3	155	141	17	4	16
Cross Keys	9	5	0	4	186	146	21	4	14
Llandovery	9	6	0	3	140	131	12	1	13
Bonymaen	9	4	0	5	185	181	18	4	12
Aberdare	9	5	0	4	136	142	15	2	12
S Wales Pol	9	3	0	6	150	214	18	4	10
Tenby Utd	9	3	0	6	132	220	15	2	8
Maesteg	9	3	0	6	135	174	14	2	8
Llanharan	9	2	0	7	158	233	15	2	6
Ystradgynlais	9	2	0	7	128	178	14	2	6

Third Division: Blackwood 21 Penarth 14; Bulth Wells 18 Tredegar 16; Cardiff Institute 22 Blaina 15; Henllys Hill 57 Glamorgan Wanderers 17; Mountain Ash 3 Narberth 20; Tondu 6 Pyle 3. **Fourth Division:** Carmarthen Harlequins 15 Vardre 11; Llantwit 26 Glynneath 3; Merthyr 13 Rumney 8; Rhymney 38 Pontypool United 24; Tumble 26 St Peter's 17; Whitland 44 Aberavon Harlequins 10. **Fifth Division:** Abergavenny 20 Ystrad Rhondda 3; Gamdiffaith 15 Felinfoel 19; Kidwelly 42 Cardiff Harlequins 0; Oakdale 28 Termaw 13; Pontyberem 17 Hendy 13; Seven Sisters 36 Abercarn 18.

Tennents Scottish Championship
First Division

Boroughmuir	18	Hawick	19
Heriot's FP	34	Edinburgh Ac	21
Melrose	25	Watsonians	10
Stirling Co	45	Gala	6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boroughmuir	11	7	1	3	238	180	15
Melrose	11	7	0	4	262	158	14
Stirling Co	11	7	0	4	236	172	14
Hawick	11	6	0	5	195	212	12
Watsonians	11	5	1	5	278	214	11
Heriots FP	11	5	0	6	224	266	10
Edinburgh Ac	11	4	1	6	200	217	9
Gala	11	1	1	9	144	340	3

Second Division

Currie	25	W of Scotland	14
Glasgow H/K	49	Stewart's Mel	23
Jed-Forest	22	Kelso	12
Selkirk	21	Dundee HSFP	16

Third Division

Biggar	16	Musselburgh	13
Corstorphine	5	Glasgow Ac	60
Grangemouth	27	Peebles	17
Preston Lodge	17	Kirkcaldy	27

Fourth Division

Ayr	58	Haddington	16
Edinburgh W	15	Gordonians	19
Glasgow Sthn	29	Langholm	9
Wigtownshire	3	Kilmarnock	37

Club Matches

Aspatria	29	Ruislip	3
Brixham	26	Plymouth	19
Broughton Park	36	Old Aldwinians	11
Camborne	19	St Ives	28
Driffield	18	Sheffield	19
Kendal	31	Aspatria	16
Kirkby Lonsdale	16	Preston G	51
Leek	10	Lichfield	63
York	13	Wharfedale	22

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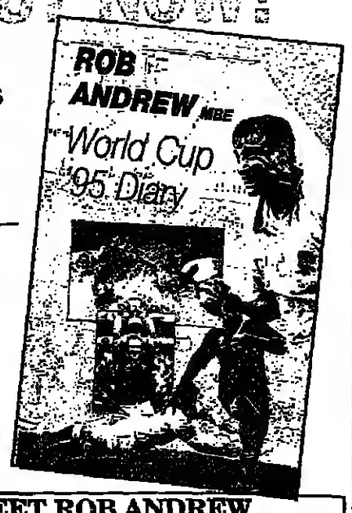

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sport

FOOTBALL: Rioch's team have discovered their own formula for success but Graham's basic philosophy still holds good

Dutch treat: Dennis Bergkamp wends his way between United defenders Gary Pallister and Steve Bruce to the delight of the Highbury crowd Photograph: Robert Hallam

Bergkamp rallies the working class

GLENN MOORE
COMMENTARY

"Good players, working hard." That, said George Graham admiringly, is the secret of football success. That comment, made after Arsenal's defeat by Milan in the SuperCup last spring, came to mind during his former club's match with Manchester United on Saturday.

With an hour gone, and United gradually taking control, Denis Irwin drove into the Arsenal penalty area. There to make the tackle, and come away with the ball, was Dennis Bergkamp, £7.5m of thoroughbred striker, tracking back like a workhorse.

At other times, the crucial intervention came from Glenn Helder, a winger whose first appearances at Highbury suggested he thought his contract had a clause that precluded defending. Graham may be gone from Highbury, but his work ethic is alive and well.

However, this should not be taken to mean that Arsenal are all drudge and no dazzle. The difference between Graham's Arsenal and Bruce Rioch's is in what they do when they have the ball. The first impulse is no longer to look for Ian Wright and hoof it into space ahead of him, it is to find a red shirt within 20 yards and pass to its owner's feet. This is radical stuff at Highbury, and the supporters love it. In the first half there were several sweeping one-touch moves whose fluency had United chasing shadows.

At the hub of many of these was Bergkamp, who often formed the link between Wright, Paul Merson and Helder. Arsenal, according to Graham this week, paid over the odds for Bergkamp. Maybe, but you would not have found many subscribing to that view at Highbury on Saturday. Quite a few were happily paying over the odds for him themselves – large posters of the Dutchman were selling well at £2 outside.

The comparison between Bergkamp and the other £7m striker, Andy Cole, was instructive. While Cole is much more of an all-round player than he was at Newcastle, his touch is not as precise as Bergkamp's and his awareness is less acute. While the Dutchman was spraying perfectly weighted crossfield passes around Highbury, too many of Cole's were hit too heavily, inaccurately, or obviously. He also failed where it counts, in front of goal, missing one particularly good opportunity just before the hour after slick passes by Eric Cantona and Roy Keane had put him clear.

But Bergkamp should really be compared with Cantona, not Cole. The Frenchman had a quiet game, but his eye for a pass stood out, especially one 38th-minute ball to Cole that wrong-footed both the Arsenal defence and 34,000 spectators, most of whom were expecting him to spread the ball wide. It was, however, fractionally underhit and Tony Adams was able to block as Cole delayed his shot.

Cantona also missed a late chance to equalise, beautifully put through by Cole he was surprisingly let down by his touch and the commanding David Seaman was able to save.

That left Bergkamp as the only scorer. His seventh Arsenal goal came after he dispossessed the hesitant Irwin before beating Schmeichel with an immaculate finish 15 minutes into the game. Away from the restrictions of the lone role he was given at Internazionale, he looks much happier. His partnership with Wright still has room for improvement, but judging by the success it is already having, that will be a source of pleasure, not frustration, for Rioch.

That assessment applies to the team as a whole. With only David Platt – no great passer himself – and Bergkamp added to the mix, Arsenal are taking time to adopt the new habits, but clearly relish the attempt.

Towards the end, as United penned them in, they reverted to type, seeking to release Wright into space whenever they got the ball back. Rioch's solution was to take off Wright – who was far from happy about it – and bring on John Hartson. Now the ball had to be played into feet, securing a few more precious seconds of possession.

Last season this match, played after another week of European failure (United's in Gothenburg), was an awful, bad-tempered goalless draw. As such, it was very much in the tradition of recent United-Arsenal encounters. On Saturday, it was initially absorbing and ultimately thrilling, always easy on the eye and rarely niggling.

The change is partly due to personnel, last year's main headbangers – Paul Ince, Mark Hughes and John Jensen – were not among the assembly and Keane, in his last game before his latest suspension, was on his best behaviour. But it was also a question of altitude. Both managers desire positive football – it is noticeable that all United's "difficult" players in recent seasons have been imported – their kids compete without the excesses.

That there was only one goal was due to the excellence of the goalkeepers – Peter Schmeichel made a particularly fine save from a diving header by Wright – and some magnificent second-half defending by Arsenal. "They had all the luck," said a disappointed Alex Ferguson. A debatable point, but even if it was true, Arsenal had earned it.

Goal: Bergkamp (15) 1-0.

Arsenal (4-4-1-1): Seaman; Dixon, Adams, Bould, Winterburn; Merson, Platt, Keown, Helder; Bergkamp; Wright (Harrison, 79). **Substitutes not used:** Jensen, Bartram (gk).

Manchester United (4-2-3-1): Schmeichel; G Neville, Bruce, Pallister, Irwin (McClair, 80); Butt (Beckham, 53), Keane; Scholes (Sharpe, 63), Cantona, Giggs; Cole.

Referee: P Durkin (Portland).

Liverpool let down by their basic failings

GUY HODGSON

Newcastle United	2
Liverpool	1

You can imagine a Liverpool player's bonfire party. The potatoes are roasting in the oven, the wood is piled high and the most expensive fireworks money can buy are primed. Perfect, except for one thing. He has forgotten to get the matches.

It is the basics that baffle the men in red at the moment. Like scoring goals. Give them a sticky spot in defence and they will pass their way out of trouble like aristocrats dismissing their flunkies. But try to show that *savoir-faire* in the opposition area and they fail. Brondby, Newcastle – both were tales of waste.

Elegant, even beautiful to watch at times, they forgot last week how to turn overwhelming superiority into the most important commodity, which is extraordinary given the quality of the strikers, they have at their disposal. Robbie Fowler could have had a hat-trick at St James' Park, Ian Rush might have added another to his 11th-minute goal, and Jamie Redknapp and Steve McManaman had efforts brilliantly saved.

In fact, this was an extraordinary match all round. Newcastle were out-tackled, out-passed and out-thought, but still managed to stretch their lead in the Premiership to five points. It was like a cameo of the season, the home team created four chances and scored twice, while Liverpool carved out umpteen and managed only one goal. When the Tannoy sprang to life with Tina Turner's "Simply The Best" at the final whistle, the audacity took the breath away.

"They gave us a lesson," Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, said. "Liverpool passed it like only one team can in the world and we found it difficult. But credit to my players, they never let their heads go down and we pinched a result.

"It's very easy to be jack the lad when it's going well. A lot of my players struggled, yet we still came out on top. When we played Blackburn last year, we hammered them but still lost 1-0 and they ended up winning the championship. Sometimes you have to grind out results."

Newcastle struggled to an extent where their championship credentials were questioned, even though their hold on the Premiership lead tightened. Until this match, the accusation was that they had not played against teams of a similar calibre, and after it, it could be argued that they still had not.

Which was surprising, given their start. Les Ferdinand put them ahead after two minutes to maintain his record of scoring every time he has played at St James' Park this season, and Peter Beardsley almost made it 2-0 with a chip that grazed the visitors' bar.

Yet once Rush had equalised, the tide turned with such a vengeance that after the interval Newcastle rarely got out of their half until the last push. It was as if Liverpool's energy supply halted when Robbie Fowler managed to get his feet tangled up after rounding Shaka Hislop in the 81st minute. They were out on their feet and Steve Watson, whose substitution had only been prevented by an injury to Keith Gillespie, supplied the knock-out blow in the 89th minute.

"It's a cruel world," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said. "Last week we scored 13 goals in three games and this week we haven't got any in two, despite playing some good football."

The impression is that, like last season, a Liverpool team that is a joy to watch might not have the required cutting edge. The championship could be passing them by. Elegantly, of course, but passing them by nevertheless.

Goals: Ferdinand (2) 1-0; Rush (10) 1-1; Watson (89) 2-1.

Newcastle United (4-4-2): Hislop; Barton, Peacock, Howey, Beresford; Gillespie (Albert, 65), Lee, Watson, Ginola; Beardsley, Ferdinand. **Substitutes not used:** Sellars, Srnicek (gk).

Liverpool (5-3-2): James; R Jones, Wright, Scales, Babb, Harkness; McManaman, Redknapp, Barnes; Rush (Collymore, 74), Fowler. **Substitutes not used:** McAteer, Warner (gk).

Referee: M Reed (Birmingham).

TODAY'S NUMBER

4,800

The size in square feet (60ft by 80ft) of the giant Middlesbrough shirt, oversewn with the message "Welcome Juninho", which was flown by helicopter over the Riverside stadium to mark the Brazilian's debut on Saturday.

Big Ron suffers big problems

DAVE HADFIELD

Coventry City	2
Tottenham Hotspur	3

At Coventry, you can buy Big Ron mugs and Big Ron T-shirts. It is that merchandise, rather than generic club souvenirs, that the Highfield Road scoreboard advertises. You can even call Big Ron on an 0891 number, although on Saturday's evidence, you could be in for a rather terse conversation.

Although the personality cult is still alive and well, the personality itself is showing the strain. Atkinson has ridden out any number of crises with a quick one-liner and a flash of teeth and gold jewellery, but he has surely never resembled his namesake, the tight-lipped, ashen-faced Neasden manager, Ron Knee, as closely as he did after this defeat.

Coventry have been in worse positions than this later in the season, but the prospect of entering the club's annals as the man who took them down after all manner of unlikely characters had kept them up over the past 20-odd years is siphoning away the familiar bonhomie.

If a tight-lipped, ashen-faced man can also be incandescent, then Atkinson was. "We've thrown it away with defending that was nothing short of scandalous," he scowled, following up with heavy hints that heads would roll and that new faces would be brought in.

The nearest thing to a wisecrack was telling a radio reporter to "mind your own business" over what he said to his side at half-time.

Although Coventry's marking left much to be desired, however, Atkinson's angry analysis does less than justice to some impressive attacking play from a Tottenham team beginning to re-establish itself as a force.

After going behind to a cleverly made goal by Dion Dublin, Spurs, who surrendered a two-goal lead in the Coca-Cola Cup tie here 10 days earlier, scored three – all, in their different ways, finely constructed.

With Chris Armstrong starting to produce some good touches and Ruel Fox looking a Tottenham natural on the right, Teddy Sheringham has the support that he clearly feared he would lack this season and the side is thoroughly dangerous going forward.

Gerry Francis, although several shades less ashen than his counterpart, was less impressed with their defensive work. Their lack of assurance at the back brought Coventry a second goal and gave them the prospect of snatching an equaliser until the very end.

Maybe that would have put a faint smile on Big Ron's mug, even if one of City's grimmer battles still lies ahead.

Goals: Dublin (7) 1-0; Fox (20) 1-1; Sheringham (25) 1-2; Howells (46) 1-3; Williams (48) 2-3.

Coventry City (4-4-2): Filan; Borrows (Pickering, 74), Busst, Rennie, Hall; Telfer, Williams, Richardson, Salako; Dublin, Lampley (Isaias, 74). **Substitute not used:** Gould (gk).

Tottenham Hotspur (4-4-2): Walker; Austin, Mabbutt, Campbell, Wilson; Fox, Howells, Dozzell, Rosenthal (Calderwood, 70); Sheringham, Armstrong. **Substitutes not used:** McMahon, Thorstvedt (gk).

Referee: J Winter (Stockton-on-Tees).

Summerbee earns Ball reprieve

JON CULLEY

Manchester City	1
Bolton Wanderers	0

Let us keep this in perspective. Next May, this result may well represent no more than a pimple on the falling graph of City's season. At least, that is how the red half of Manchester will console themselves after a rare Saturday of exclusively blue celebrations.

But you cannot blame the Maine Road crowd, staff and fans alike, for a little bit of optimism. Only in the makes-no-sense world of football could more than 28,000 people turn up to watch a team with two points from 11 games take on another with five straight away defeats, but then again, the chance that there would be something to cheer about at last was probably too much to resist.

So they whooped it up. "I'm pleased," Alan Ball said – understatement was clearly the manager's theme for the day. "I want to win to ease some of the pressure which is beginning to build up on us," he wrote in his programme notes. Beginning to build up?

Only Francis Lee, the hirer and firer, knows how much pressure Ball is under. Given that he stood by Brian Horton longer than anyone expected, it is probable that the chairman will, for the moment, remain loyal to Ball. November is not a kind month for managers in trouble, and the two-week break between this Premiership round and the next lends itself ideally to boardroom stock-taking.

But if it is tough at present to be Alan Ball, it cannot be much easier to be Nicky Summerbee, who has suffered more than most during City's decline. The 24-year-old winger so resembles his famous father that, since the moment he arrived expensively from Swindon 16 months ago, he has been expected somehow to turn back the clock to the 1960s.

In September, Ball dropped him "for his own good" and Saturday's decisive goal, therefore, is a mark of personal triumph. His confidence had drained away, Ball said, but there was a need, also, to apply some hoot to hackside.

Indeed, there was no hint of frail confidence at all in the way the goal was scored, from the ball juggling by Niall Quinn that launched it, through Georgi Kinkladze's expertly delivered pass to Summerbee's cracking finish from a yard inside the penalty area.

Had Bolton, without a point away from home, not been so lacking in purpose in the first half, they might have taken three here. In the second half, chastised and reorganised with a striker removed and five in midfield, they looked the better side.

Goal: Summerbee (11) 1-0.

Manchester City (4-4-2): Immel; Foster (Creaney, 87), Symons, Curle, Edghill; Summerbee, Lomas, Flitcroft (Brown, 70), Kinkladze; Rösler, Quinn. **Substitute not used:** Margetson (gk).

Bolton Wanderers (4-4-2): Branagan; McAnespie, Fairclough, Bergsson, Phillips (Green, 83); Lee, Curaoz (De Freitas, 81), Stubbs, Thompson; McGinlay, Paatelainen (Patterson, 39).

Referee: R Hart (Darlington).

That was the weekend that was

by Jon Culley

Belle Vue alive to the Runcorn samba beat

Forget Juninho – the place to go to witness silky South American-style skills is not the Riverside Stadium but Bella Vue, home of Doncaster Rovers.

Or so Rovers have been persuaded by Vauxhall Conference outfit, Runcorn. The Third Division side handed over "an undisclosed five-figure sum" for 23-year-old left back, Paul Robertson, after some powerful patter from Runcorn manager John Carroll.

"It might sound crazy," Carroll said, "but Paul wouldn't look out of place playing for Brazil. He's got an unbelievable left foot and great pace and I don't think it will be long before the big clubs are looking at him."

In which case, the Linnets may well cash in again, as a result of a useful sell-on clause built into the transfer. Robertson made his debut away to Barnet on Saturday, alongside Gary Brabin, whom Runcorn sold to Rovers in a similar deal 18 months ago.

Turn back the clock

"His reign as manager was described in the city yesterday as being 'on a knife edge'. There were rumours yesterday that one of Scotland's leading clubs are standing by should he leave." – **Derek Hodgson, the *Independent*, 28 December, 1989**

"His transfer policy has been a disaster, his team selection has often made little sense and results, given the greatness of the club, have been abysmal. Today his job literally hangs in the balance." – **Brian Glanville, the *Sunday Times*, 7 January 1990**

"He takes his side into tomorrow's tie at Hereford knowing that his tenure will probably go the way of the Government's Football Spectators Bill should the League's 88th-placed team prove victorious." – **Phil Shaw, the *Independent*, 27 January, 1990**

About whom were the words written? Why, Alex Ferguson, whose tenure as Manchester United manager – nine years exactly – has lasted almost five years longer than the football world expected in the bleak Old Trafford winter of 1989/90.

Arrivederci Silenzi?

Here's a story no one in Nottingham believes – that the Forest team's Christmas party will see Andrea Silenzi among the guests.

On the basis that the first Italian to leave *Serie A* for the Premier League did not come to keep the bench warm, City Ground fans suspect that the £1.8m ex-Torino striker will not stand much longer for playing understudy to £200,000 Southend export Jason Lee.

Forest play Wimbledon tonight after renewed speculation over Silenzi's future, namely that the seven-day Italian transfer "window", currently open, will allow him to escape. Rumour-mongers suggest Parma, Internazionale, Genoa and Torino are poised.

The 29-year-old Italian says: "I am not homesick, I love Nottingham," he says. But after one start in 15 games, it does not look too good ...

PREMIER XI

TEAM OF THE WEEKEND

HISLOP NEWCASTLE

DODDS SOTTON | WRIGHT LIVERPOOL | BOULD ARSENAL | WINTERBURN ARSENAL

KINKLADZE MAN CITY | JUNINHO MIDDLESBROUGH | EBBRELL EVERTON | WADDLE SHEFF WED

BERGKAMP ARSENAL

TOWNE ASTON VILLA

Red card

BARRY FRY

... the Birmingham City manager who, in a stadium as volatile as St Andrews, ought to know better than to indulge in his habitually excessive touchline celebrations when his side score. Saturday's ugly scenes after the Millwall game could hardly be blamed on him, but his contribution cannot have helped.

Molineux moans

"The supporters have every right to complain. To say we were dismal would be describing it kindly. It was a good job we defended our penalty area well because we were second best in everything else."

— Graham Taylor, Wolves manager, after his side slumped to another defeat, at Barnsley

Vital statistics

37 The number of minutes Passon's Andy Saville took to score his second successive home hat-trick

409 The number of minutes between Man City's first home goal of the season and the second, on Saturday

32 The number of League goals for Caledonian Thistle, Highest scorers in England and Scotland

18 the number of defeats in Frank Clark's first 99 games as Nottingham Forest manager

Starting out at Gresley

Having gone from bottom to top in his life, Garry Birtles has no worries about taking the long route. Hence the one-time carpet fitter who became a £1.25m Manchester United star was happy to make his managerial debut on Saturday – with Gresley Rovers in the Beazer Premier League.

Birtles had been out of football five years after arthritis ended his playing career. He accepted the chance on Friday to be No 2 to his old Grimsby teammate Paul Futcher at Gresley, and kicked off with a 2-1 win at Chelmsford. "It's difficult to get a foot on the ladder these days, so I'm very excited," the 39-year-old former England international said.

Not that he will be taking too much for granted. He will not, for instance, be be giving up his day job, selling seafood to the catering trade.

Take a bow

TERRY VENABLES

... for suggesting that the £100m from the National Lottery earmarked for whichever site is chosen as the national stadium would be better spent on play areas for children. This is possibly the best tactical idea the England coach has yet had.

Just as John Major has tacitly supported the nuclear antics of Jacques Chirac, so that footballing gentleman, sometime national captain and fast-food PR man, David Platt, offers the hand of detente to a misunderstood Frenchman who has a tendency to reach critical mass himself.

Rumours

Fact and fiction from the Sunday papers

Newcastle United are ready to pay a British record fee of £10m to create the partnership Terry Venables does not want by signing Alan Shearer to play alongside Les Ferdinand in Kevin Keegan's side, according to the *Mail on Sunday*. The report claims Blackburn agreed verbally to allow Shearer to leave if he became disenchanted and that Newcastle, with money banked from the sale of Ruel Fox, more to come when Keegan sells full-back Marc Hottiger and commercial sales booming, will find the fee no problem.

The *Sunday Mirror*, however, reckons the striker about to leave Ewood is not Shearer but Chris Sutton, with Tottenham poised and Arsenal and Manchester United watching.

Brian Deane could go from Leeds to Aston Villa, according to the *Mirror*, though Brian Little's £1.5m bid may depend on Graham Fenton's sale to Blackburn going ahead after a hitch over the young midfielder's medical.

Ossie Ardiles, the former Spurs manager dismissed by Mexican side Guadalajara, is back in Britain with ambitions to run his own club, according to the *Sunday Express*, which puts forward Barnet, managed by his former Spurs team-mate, Ray Clemence, as a possible target.

هكذا من الأصل

Juninho's spark lights Boro's fire

Phil Shaw finds the Brazilian is more than capable of carrying the weight of Middlesbrough's expectations of him

Middlesbrough	1
Leeds United	1

The artist formerly known as Oswaldo Giroldo Jnr jetted out to join the Brazilian squad in Buenos Aires yesterday, leaving Middlesbrough to reflect on a debut which, if not exactly princely, contained some massively promising purple patches.

With his boyish face and slender physique, Juninho looks as if he might find a paper-round too taxing. As the Riverside Stadium rose to greet him, one feared his shoulders might not be broad enough to bear the burden of expectation. Some 8,000 extra season-tickets had been sold, not to mention so many yellow-and-green shirts and flags that a royalty on each would have slashed Brazil's national debt.

Any doubts were dispelled during the first half, as a blow-torch in red and white became the definitive symbol of the pace of change under Bryan Robson's regime. Swift and selfless, instinctive and incisive, Juninho created an early goal for Jan Age Fjortoft with a slide-rule pass and so bemused Leeds with his surges that two players were booked for tripping him.

After their midweek roasting by Ronaldo, one could almost see the visiting defenders asking what they bad done to deserve being victimised by the buys from Brazil. Juninho compounded their problems by frequently switching flanks, as well as engaging with the *midfield* heavyweights like a scrum-half suddenly taking on a pack of props.

As introductions to English football go, it was more influential than, say, Eric Cantona's or Dennis Bergkamp's. However, one of the clichés with which Juninho will become acquainted is "game of two halves". After an equaliser against the run of play by Brian Deane, "the Little One" tired rapidly and Leeds' big ones totally dominated the last 35 minutes.

Juninho's second coming, providing he is not too jaded by Wednesday's match against Argentina and the travelling it entails, will be Sunday's visit by Sampdoria for the official opening of the ground. Until then, there is much to savour. Those lynx-eyed enough to see it will relive the moment he nutmegged Carlton Palmer, as well as the Pelé-style dummy he sold to let a pass find Nick Barmby.

A video of the latter incident, in which Juninho kept running for the return pass, should be shown to everyone from the rest of the Premiership to primary-school children. Whereas colleagues were often static when receiving the ball – a conspicuous factor in British Eurofailures – he was always on the move.

The fact that Juninho will not play competitively again until 18 November is a mixed blessing. Robson can use the interim to integrate him into the squad and the region (it may be a disappointment to find that Billingham Synthonia do not play samba). Yet by the time Juninho faces Vinnie Jones at Wimbledon, evoking images of the infamous first meeting of Tommy Smith and Ossie Ardiles, he will have bad one "proper" match in five weeks.

However long he stays, Juninho may never fathom the ways and words of Howard Wilkinson. Asked his view of *Middlesbrough's No 25*, the Leeds manager let out a long sigh before giving a grudging endorsement. It ended thus: "He can control and pass, he's got a quick mind... he's small, he's Brazilian."

Wilkinson may have been preoccupied with thoughts of Leeds, who always appear two or three players short of being able to sustain a challenge. Tony Yeboah in particular is crying out for support and service. Still awesome in full flight, he also set up the goal with a brave challenge, although there were moments during his eighth successive goalless game when the Ghanaian must have wondered what he had let himself in for.

Therein lies a lesson for Midlesbrough. Enticing the world champions' player of the year from São Paulo was the easy part. Down by the Riverside, the challenge will be to ensure that Juninho does not come to feel like a fish out of the Tees.

Goals: Fjortoft (11) 1-0; Deane (45) 1-1.
Middlesbrough (4-4-1-1): Walsh; Liddell, Pearson, Vickers, Morris; Hignett, Mustoe (Moore, 65), Pollock, Juninho (Moreno, 78); Barmby; Fjortoft. **Substitute not used:** Blackmore.
Leeds United (4-1-3-2): Lukic; Kelly, Wetherall, Jobson, Worthington; Pemberton; Whelan, McAllister, Palmer; Yeboah, Deane. **Substitutes not used:** Couzens, Ford, Masinga.
Referee: K Burge (Tonypandy).

Small wonder: Juninho (left) attempts to evade the clutches of Leeds' Carlton Palmer on Saturday Photograph: David Ashdown

Dubious decision inspires Saints

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

St Helens	58
Halifax	20

Saints made Halifax pay dearly for the sin of going to sleep at half-time, roasting them with half an hour of the most blistering rugby.

Trailing 16-10 at the break and looking capable of losing this match, the sort of scoring blitz they are increasingly making their trade mark saw St Helens romp clear.

Halifax's disintegration began with a dubious decision, referee David Campbell ruling that Karl Harrison had passed forward to Wayne Parker. Saints duly won the scrum, scored through the outstanding Chris Joynt and never looked back.

In rapid succession, Keiron Cunningham, Karle Hammond twice and, after a brilliant 50-yard run Ian Pickavance, all went over. Anthony Sullivan then completed his second hat-trick in four days, increasing his tally to four after Vila Matautia had also charged in for Saints.

By that time, Halifax were down to 12 men, their captain Harrison, simmering ever since the ruling that began the collapse, welcoming Chris Morley, the Saints 60th-minute substitute, with a high *tackle* and getting himself sent off.

It was an extraordinary turnaround after a first half, in which Halifax threatened to draw level with Leeds just two points behind Wigan at the top of the Championship. Their South Pacific influence, with three Western Samoans and a Tongan in their back *line*, was well to the fore as Carl Gilllespie and Mike Umaga went in for tries and John Schuster landed four goals.

The fact that Saints were as close as they were at half-time owed something to two borderline passes from Paul Loughlin to Sullivan being ruled legal.

Some of the Halifax handling was every hit as breathtaking as Saints at their best, but when the pressure was on them they proved woefully brittle. They did manage another try near the end from their Samoan debutant, Fereti Tuilaigi, but by then Saints were relaxing and casually *surveying* the *wreckage*.

St Helens: Prescott; Hayes, Gibbs (Northey, 57), Loughlin, Sullivan; Hammond, Goulding (Waring, 72); Fogerty (Morley, 60), Cunningham, Dwyer, Pickavance, Matautia (Haigh, 69), Joynt.
Halifax: Umaga; Bentley (Highton, 20), Schuster (Slicke, 66), Amone, Tuilagi, Anderson, Parker (Briggs, 52), Harrison, Rowley, Jackson, Gillespie, Perrett, Baldwin (Kettendge, h-t).
Referee: D Campbell (Widnes).

Dominant Broncos

Round-up

After scoring 34 points against St Helens on Wednesday and still managing to lose, London Broncos made no such mistake at Castleford as their scrum-half, Leo Dynevor, scored a hat-trick of tries as they strolled to a 37-8 success.

Castleford were never in the hunt as the seven-try Broncos handed out a lesson in handling and support play.

London set the early pace and deservedly took the lead after 12 minutes when Ben Walker, the stand-off, evaded several tacklers on a jinking run to send Craig Green over for an unconverted score. London then swept 85 metres in a thrilling four-man move that ended with the second-rower Russell Bowden giving Dynevor a sprint to the line.

The scrum-half goaled his own try and stretched Broncos' lead six minutes later when he regathered his own chip over Castleford's disorganised defence to touch down.

Castleford came out fired up for the second-half but Dynevor grabbed his hat-trick try on 57 minutes after his deflected chip over the top rebounded kindly.

At the foot of the table, Sheffield claimed only their second win of the season, beating Oldham 36-18. Sheffield produced a tremendous second-half performance to brush aside Oldham, who had led from the third minute.

Sheffield's win consigned Workington to the bottom of the table despite the Cumbrian team's battling show at home to Bradford Bulls.

In a hard-fought contest the Bulls weathered some intense Workington pressure in the second half before securing a 22-12 victory five minutes from time when Gary Christie took advantage of some slack tackling to score the crucial try which Deryck Fox converted.

Leicester give a lavish display

JAMES WOODWARD

West Bromwich Albion	2
Leicester City	3

A compelling advertisement for the footballing prowess of these sides provided superb entertainment at The Hawthorns yesterday.

Three first-half goals from Leicester appeared to have ended the contest but, when Paul Raven stabbed home Albion's second in a goal-line mêlée two minutes from time, a remarkable comeback was on the cards. But, having twice missed the opportunity to go top in the last month, Albion were again found wanting on the big occasion. Leicester's first-half football, though, would have graced the Premiership that they are making such a good fist of returning to at the first time of asking.

Albion, too, demonstrated the swift passing football for which their manager, Alan Buckley, is renowned but they could not match Leicester's verve and movement in that first half.

Mike Whitlow, Garry Parker and David Lowe combined to allow the midfielder Scott Taylor to head his third goal of the season in the *16th minute*. Iwan Roberts surged into space to stroke in the second and a minute before the interval Whitlow's cross fell behind his two strikers but Taylor, a £500,000 buy from Reading, arrived to volley the ball into the corner.

The visitors then soft-pedalled and Ian Hamilton struck from 16 yards, although the ball took a wicked deflection, but Albion's second goal came too late to save them.

West Bromwich Albion (4-4-2): Naylor; Burgess, Raven, Mardon, King (Cunnington, h-t); Ashcroft, Coldicott, Hamilton, Gilbert; Hunt, R Taylor. **Substitutes not used:** Edwards, Reece (gk).
Leicester City (3-5-2): Kalac; Carey, Rollings, Hill; Kamark, S Taylor (Blake, 70), Parker, Lowe, Whitlow; Robins, Roberts. **Substitutes not used:** Grayson, Lawrence.
Referee: P Gifford (Llanbradach).

■ Lee Mills scored his second goal of the match in injury time to salvage a point for Port Vale in a 2-2 draw with Oldham at Boundary Park. Paul Wilkinson, on loan from Middlesbrough, opened the scoring with his first goal for Oldham after seven minutes hut Mills equalised 11 minutes later. Andy Porter missed a penalty for Vale after 32 minutes, and Lee Richardson put Oldham ahead from the spot eight minutes from time. Vale's Steve Guppy was sent off for disputing that decision but Mills' late equaliser lifted the Potteries side off the bottom of the First Division.

Sunderland held at bay in the Valley

LIZ SEARL

Charlton Athletic	1
Sunderland	1

A draw between two teams with near identical records in the First Division would imply a match that held few surprises. However, although the goals were nothing to shout about, 90 minutes of end-to-end play was enough to take the chill off an ice-cold Valley yesterday.

A stalemate it was but not of the usual kind. The enthusiastic visitors had set a cracking pace at the outset but just when they began to stack the odds against Charlton, the home side took the lead after 11 minutes. Mark Robson fed Lee Bowyer on the wing and his cross was converted by Shaun Newton.

Then, with possession alternating from one side to the other, Sunderland's Phil Gray set off a midfield sweep which took him to the edge of the box. In the scrum that ensued Michael Gray picked his way through it to equalise on 18 minutes.

Charlton were a much improved side in the second half but were still grateful for Sunderland's profligacy in front of goal. A relieved Alan Curbishley described it as "a nice Sunday afternoon match to watch with a few pints".

"We played a good side today," the Charlton manager said. "I knew we were in for a tough time and we got a bit of a chasing in the first half when Sunderland didn't get their just deserts.

"But we battled away and haven't lost. Like us, a lot of teams are struggling at home in this division and doing well on their travels."

The Sunderland manager, Peter Reid, was happy with his team's performance but disappointed with the result. "We're getting there but you've got to stick your chances away," he said.

Charlton Athletic (4-4-2): Salmon (Ammann, 26); Humphrey, Stuart, Walsh, Chapple; Rufus, Newton, Nelson, Robson (Grant, 70); Leaburn, Bowyer (Jones, 70).
Sunderland (4-4-2): Chamberlain; Kubicki, Scott, Bracewell, Ball; Melville, M. Gray, Ord, Kelly; Gray, Russell (Aston, 76). **Substitutes not used:** Howey, Agnew.
Referee: K Leach (Wolverhampton).

Worthy win for Warriors

Dundee United	0
Stenhousemuir	0

After extra time; Stenhousemuir win 5-4 on penalties

Stenhousemuir yesterday held their nerve to win their first cup in a 111-year history. The Second Division side beat Dundee United 5-4 in a penalty shoot-out in Perth to claim the Scottish League Challenge Trophy.

The Warriors, inspired by goalkeeper Roddy McKenzie, emerged as worthy winners. They were more cohesive than the First Division side, who had taken their spending to over £1m in a month by paying Celtic £150,000 for Jamie McQuilken on Saturday.

Lloyd Haddow scored the decisive penalty after United slipped behind when McKenzie, who had spent most of the match keeping out Gery McSwegan, denied Craig Brewster. In a late flourish, United piled on the pressure, but McKenzie saved splendidly from Grant Johnson, McQuilken and McSwegan.

Dundee United: Maxwell; Shannon, Malpas, Pressley, Dailly, McKinnon, McLaren (McQuilken, 60), Johnson, McSwegan, Coyle (Brewster, 73), Winters. **Substitute not used:** O'Hanlon (gk).
Stenhousemuir: McKenzie; Bannon, Haddow, Armstrong, McGeachie, Sprott, Hunter, Fisher (Steel, 118), Mathieson, Hutchison, Little. **Substitutes not used:** Aitken, Logan.
Referee: J Rowbotham (Kirkcaldy).

Rangers rebound

Scottish round-up

DAVID MCKINNEY

Juventus bad torn Rangers apart in European competition in midweek but back on the domestic scene it was business as *usual. In a week when the* shortcomings of Scottish football were exposed as never before, Ally McCoist, the Rangers striker, ensured his manager Walter Smith finished the week with a smile on his face by scoring both goals in a 2-0 win over Falkirk.

No amount of introspection will improve matters unless people act to change the domestic game and with that in mind Smith, who is hoping for a reduction in the number of games clubs play in future, would be wise to avoid the latest edition of the German magazine *Kicker*, in which his Danish star, Brian Laudrup, suggests be will leave the club when his contract is up in two years' time.

Laudrup said: "I'm aware that the standard of the Scottish League is not too impressive. I don't want to finish my career here, I'd love to play in a big league again. England and Germany *are possibilities*."

Celtic, meanwhile, have indicated they will support Rangers in their battle to end Uefa's current three-foreigner restriction for European competition. On the pitch, Celtic continued to hang onto Rangers' coat tails, a 2-0 win over Motherwell keeping them within four points of their rivals.

Gus MacPherson, the Kilmarnock full-back, had a memorable day in his side's 5-1 win over Raith Rovers, making three of his side's goals before turning goalkeeper after Dragoje Lekovic was sent off with 18 minutes remaining.

Parma keep up pace

European round-up

Fabio Cannavaro and Gianfranco Zola both scored as Parma consolidated their position at the top of *Serie A* with a 2-0 win at Cremonese yesterday.

However, defending champions Juventus, convincing qualifiers for the quarter-finals of the European Cup last week, fell six points behind the pace after slipping to their second successive league defeat at Udinese. The German striker Oliver Bierhoff scored the only goal of the match in the 74th minute.

Argentina's Gabriel Batistuta celebrated his 100th *Serie A* match for Fiorentina by scoring both his side's goals in Lazio's first league defeat of the season.

Sampdoria's scoreless draw with Internazionale was marred by the extraordinary nature of Roberto Mancini's first-half dismissal. Mancini threw down his captain's armband and threatened to walk off after being booked for diving in the penalty area. Persuaded to continue by his team-mates, Mancini was promptly sent off for dissent.

An equaliser from Ajax's Nigerian international striker, Nwanko Kanu, following Ronaldo's strike for PSV Eindhoven ensured that the Dutch league leaders maintained their unbeaten record, despite dropping their first points this season.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL RESULTS

FA Carling Premiership

Yesterday

Everton (1) 1 Blackburn (0) 0
Stuart 23 — 30,097

Saturday

Arsenal	1	Man Utd	0
Chelsea	0	Sheff Wed	0
Coventry	2	Tottenham	3
Man City	1	Bolton	0
Middlesbrough	1	Leeds	1
Newcastle	2	Liverpool	1
Southampton	2	QPR	0
West Ham	1	Aston Villa	4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle	12	10	1	1	29	9	31
Man Utd	12	8	2	2	23	12	26
Arsenal	12	7	3	2	16	6	24
Liverpool	12	7	2	3	25	10	23
Aston Villa	12	7	2	3	17	9	23
Middlesbrough	12	6	4	2	12	7	22
Nottm Forest	11	5	6	0	19	12	21
Leeds	12	6	3	3	18	14	21
Tottenham	12	5	4	3	19	16	19
Chelsea	12	4	4	4	11	14	16
Blackburn	12	4	2	6	16	16	14
West Ham	12	3	4	5	11	16	13
Everton	12	3	3	6	13	16	12
Sheff Wed	12	3	3	6	9	13	12
Southampton	12	3	3	6	13	20	12
QPR	12	3	1	8	10	19	10
Wimbledon	11	3	1	7	15	25	10
Bolton	12	2	2	8	12	23	8
Coventry	12	1	4	7	10	24	7
Man City	12	1	2	9	4	21	5

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Bromsgrove 1 Stalybridge 2; Dover 2 Kidderminster 1; Gateshead 2 Slough 1; Halifax 3 Bath 1; Hednesford 0 Macclesfield 1; Kettering 2 Dagenham & Redbridge 0; Northwich 4 Runcorn 3; Southport 2 Farnborough 1; Telford 1 Stevenage 3. Welling 1 Altrincham 1; Woking 3 Morecambe 0. **Leading positions:** 1 Macclesfield (P16, Pts36); 2 Woking (16-33); 3 Kidderminster (17-30).

FA UMBRO TROPHY Second qualifying round: Atherton 2 Dudley 2 (replay Wednesday); Atherstone 1 Accrington Stanley 3; Barrow 0 Winsford 2; Basingstoke 0 Uxbridge 2; Boston 5 Leicester Utd 2; Bognor Regis 2 Sittingbourne 2 (replay Wednesday); Braintree 4 Harrow Borough 0; Carshalton 5 Weymouth 1; Chertsey 2 Chesham 2 (replay Tuesday); Clevedon 0 Worcester 4; Crawley 0 Bashley 1; Curzon Ashton 1 Lancaster 1 (replay Tuesday); Eastwood Town 0 Chorley 1; Emley 2 Racing Warwick 1. Evesham 0 Aldershot Town 2; Grantham 1 Frickley Celtic 3; Great Harwood 3 Frickley 2; Hendon 3 Gravesend 0; Leigh RMI 0 Matlock 2; Maidenhead 0 Thame 5; Newport AFC 2 Fleet 1; Nuneaton 3 Knowsley 2; Purfleet 6 Corby 1; Radcliffe Borough 2 Fleetwood 0; Salisbury 2 Sudbury Town 2 (replay Tuesday); Staines 3 Havant 1; Tamworth 3 Netherfield 1; Tooting and Mitcham 2 Baldock 1; Trowbridge 1 Bishop's Stortford 0; Walton and Hersham 0 Oxford City 0 (replay Tuesday); Wembley 1 Ruislip Manor 1 (replay tonight); Yate 1 Heybridge 2

Endsleigh Insurance League First Division

Yesterday

Charlton (1) 1 Sunderland (1) 1
Newton 11 — Michael Gray 18
11,626

Oldham (1) 2 Port Vale (1) 2
Wilkinson 7 — Mills 18, 90
Richardson pen 86 — 5,138
Port Vale's Steve Guppy sent off, 86

West Brom (0) 2 Leicester (3) 3
Hamilton 57 — Taylor 15, 44
Raven 87 — Roberts 30
16,071

Saturday

Barnsley	1	Wolverhampton	0
Birmingham	2	Millwall	2
Crystal Palace	0	Reading	2
Huddersfield	3	Norwich	2
Ipswich	2	Grimsby	2
Sheff Utd	4	Portsmouth	1
Stoke	5	Luton	0
Tranmere	5	Derby	1
Watford	2	Southend	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Millwall	15	8	5	2	19	13	29
Leicester	15	8	4	3	27	20	28
Birmingham	15	7	5	3	26	16	26
Sunderland	15	6	7	2	18	14	25
Tranmere	14	6	6	2	26	14	24
West Brom	15	7	3	5	22	18	24
Barnsley	15	6	4	5	22	27	22
Charlton	15	5	7	3	19	14	22
Oldham	15	5	6	4	21	17	21
Norwich	15	5	6	4	21	18	21
Huddersfield	15	6	3	6	20	22	21
Grimsby	15	5	6	4	16	17	21
Ipswich	15	5	5	5	26	23	20
Southend	15	5	4	6	14	18	18
Stoke	15	4	6	5	20	18	18
Reading	15	4	6	5	20	22	18
Derby	15	4	6	5	17	23	18
Wolverhampton	15	4	5	6	18	20	17
Crystal Palace	14	4	5	5	16	19	17
Watford	15	3	8	6	20	23	15
Sheff Utd	15	4	2	9	21	27	14
Portsmouth	15	3	4	8	20	27	13
Port Vale	15	2	6	7	14	20	12
Luton	15	3	3	9	10	22	12

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE Premier Division: Chelmsford 1 Gresley Rovers 2; Cheltenham 2 Cambridge City 3; Ilkeston 1 Gloucester 2; Merthyr Tydfil 2 VS Rugby 3; Rushden and Diamonds 5 Stafford Rangers 1; Hastings 0 Burton Albion 3. **Leading positions:** 1 Rushden (P12, Pts31); 2 Gloucester (15-28); 3 Worcester (14-28).

ICIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Enfield 5 Bromley 0; Grays 0 St Albans 3; Hitchin 1 Boreham Wood 2; Sutton Utd 1 Dulwich Hamlet 1; Yeading 2 Molesey 2; Yeovil 3 Worthing 1. **Leading positions:** 1 Enfield (P16, Pts36); 2 Dulwich (12-27); 3 Boreham Wood (12-27).

Second Division

Brentford	0	Shrewsbury	2
Bristol Rovers	1	Peterborough	1
Burnley	3	Notts County	4
Carlisle	1	Brighton	0
Chesterfield	2	Bradford	1
Hull	1	Wrexham	1
Oxford Utd	2	Bristol City	0
Rotherham	2	Crewe	2
Swansea	1	Wycombe	2
Swindon	1	Blackpool	1
Walsall	0	Bournemouth	0
York	2	Stockport	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon	16	11	4	1	32	12	37
Crewe	15	9	4	2	30	16	31
Notts County	16	9	4	3	26	15	31
Wycombe	16	7	7	2	24	15	28
Blackpool	16	8	4	4	23	15	28
Chesterfield	16	8	3	5	23	15	27
Burnley	16	7	5	4	25	18	26
Bradford	16	7	3	6	23	25	24
Wrexham	16	6	6	4	21	20	24
Stockport	16	5	7	4	18	14	22
Bournemouth	16	6	4	6	18	19	22
Oxford Utd	16	5	6	5	20	18	21
Bristol Rovers	18	6	3	7	17	25	21
Shrewsbury	16	6	2	8	22	25	20
Rotherham	16	5	5	6	21	22	20
Peterborough	16	4	6	6	21	25	18
Swansea	16	4	6	6	18	22	18
Walsall	16	4	5	7	16	16	17
Bristol City	15	4	5	6	13	19	17
York	16	4	3	9	17	27	15
Brentford	16	4	3	9	12	22	15
Carlisle	16	3	5	8	16	25	14
Brighton	16	3	3	10	13	26	12
Hull	16	1	7	8	10	23	10

UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Bamber Bridge 3 Blyth Spartans 0; Bishop Auckland 1 Witton Albion 2; Gainsborough 1 Leek 0; Guiseley 1 Buxton 0; Hyde Utd 3 Spennymoor 2; Marine 0 Boston Utd 4. **Leading positions:** 1 Boston Utd (P20, Pts38); 2 Bamber Bridge (18-36); 3 Guiseley (17-33).

LEAGUE OF WALES: Caernarfon Town 0 Ebbw Vale 0.

GERMAN LEAGUE: Borussia Mönchengladbach 4 (Dahlin 20, 73, 78, Pettersson 75) Schalke 1 (Max 34); Freiburg 1 (Sutter 75) Uerdingen 1 (Yankov 14); 1860 Munich 1 (Bodden 37) Hansa Rostock 1 (Studer 88); Eintracht Frankfurt 4 (Hagner 6, 74, Binz 28, 86) Bayern Munich 1 (Helmer 51); VfB Stuttgart 1 (Bobic 79) Werder Bremen 1 (Basler 70); Borussia Dortmund 3 (Wolters 26, Herrlich 27, Berger 85) Fortuna Düsseldorf 0; Kaiserslautern 2 (Kuka 6, Wollitz pen 86) Karlsruhe 2 (Dundee 28, Knup 88); Bayer Leverkusen 0 Hamburg 1 (Ivanauskas 4); St Pauli 3 (Scharping pen 56, Pröpper 70, Trulsen 80) Cologne 3 (Polster 9, Munteanu 53, Dziwior 74). **Leading positions:** 1 Borussia Dortmund (P12, Pts27); 2 Bayern Munich (12-27); 3 Borussia Mönchengladbach (12-25).

Third Division

Barnet	1	Doncaster	1
Bury	0	Darlington	0
Cambridge Utd	4	Scarborough	1
Chester	4	Torquay	1
Colchester	1	Exeter	1
Gillingham	0	Northampton	0
Hereford	0	Mansfield	1
Lincoln	1	Hartlepool	1
Plymouth	0	Cardiff	0
Preston	4	Leyton Orient	0
Scunthorpe	1	Rochdale	3
Wigan	1	Fulham	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Preston	16	8	7	1	37	17	31
Chester	16	9	4	3	29	16	31
Gillingham	16	8	6	2	22	6	30
Rochdale	16	8	4	4	32	18	28
Colchester	16	7	6	3	25	17	27
Plymouth	16	7	4	5	27	19	25
Darlington	16	6	7	3	18	13	25
Doncaster	16	6	5	5	18	21	23
Cambridge Utd	16	6	4	6	27	27	22
Wigan	16	5	6	5	21	21	21
Bury	16	5	6	5	20	25	21
Scunthorpe	16	5	5	6	23	19	20
Leyton Orient	16	5	5	6	18	21	20
Exeter	16	4	8	4	17	20	20
Hereford	16	4	7	5	20	20	19
Northampton	16	5	4	7	18	18	19
Fulham	16	3	9	4	21	20	18
Scarborough	16	4	6	6	18	23	18
Hartlepool	16	4	6	6	14	23	18
Mansfield	16	3	8	5	22	31	17
Cardiff	16	4	5	7	15	17	17
Barnet	16	3	7	6	15	23	16
Lincoln	16	2	5	9	14	33	11
Torquay	16	2	4	10	16	37	10

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Bangor 2 Ards 1; Crusaders 1 Cliftonville 0; Glenavon 0 Portadown 1; Linfield 0 Glentoran 4. **Leading positions:** 1 Portadown (P6, Pts16); 2 Crusaders (6-13). **First Division:** Ballymena 0 Larne 0; Carrick 0 Coleraine 3; Distillery 2 Newry 1; Omagh 1 Ballyclare 3. **Leading positions:** 1 Distillery (P6, Pts15); 2 Coleraine (6-13).

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Derry City 5 Athlone Town 3; UCD 0 Cork City 1; Galway Utd 0 Dundalk 1; Bohemians 1 Shamrock Rovers 1; Drogheda Utd 0 Sligo Rovers 0; St Patrick's Athletic 2 Shelbourne 1. **Leading positions:** 1 Bohemians (P11 Pts21); 2 St Patricks Athletic (11-20); 3 Shelbourne (11-19).

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Bari 1 (Andersson 40) Atalanta 3 (Picasi 9, Tovalieri 13, 23); Cremonese 0 Parma 2 (Cannavaro 43, Zola 74); Fiorentina 2 (Batistuta 46, 79) Lazio 0; Roma 2 (Balbo 27, Fonseca 62) Padova 0; Sampdoria 0 Inter 0; Torino 0 Napoli 0; Udinese 1 (Bierhoff 74) Juventus 0; Vicenza 1 (Maini 87) Piacenza 1 (Piovani 56).

FRENCH LEAGUE: Bastia 1 Metz 0; Bordeaux 0 Auxerre 1; Gueugnon 0 Le Havre 1; Guingamp 1 Lyon 0; Lille 0 Martigues 0; Monaco 1 Lens 1; Nantes 1 Montpellier 0; St-Etienne 0 Rennes 0

Bell's Scottish League

Aberdeen	1	Hibernian	2
Hearts	3	Partick	0
Kilmarnock	5	Raith	1
Motherwell	0	Celtic	2
Rangers	2	Falkirk	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	11	9	1	1	24	5	28
Celtic	11	7	3	1	18	8	24
Hibernian	11	8	4	1	20	13	22
Aberdeen	11	5	1	5	16	15	16
Raith	11	4	1	6	15	21	13
Kilmarnock	11	3	2	6	12	16	11
Hearts	11	3	2	6	17	23	11
Motherwell	11	2	4	5	11	15	10
Partick	11	2	4	5	9	19	10
Falkirk	11	2	2	7	8	17	8

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE First Division: Dumbarton 1 St Johnstone 3; Dunfermline 1 St Mirren 1; Greenock Morton 2 Airdrie 1; Hamilton 1 Dundee 2. **Leading positions:** 1 Dunfermline (P12, Pts25); 2 Dundee Utd (12-25); 3 Morton (12-23). **Second Division:** Ayr 1 Stirling 2; Clyde 3 Montrose 0; East Fife 3 Stranraer 3; Queen of South 1 Forfar 1. **Leading positions:** 1 East Fife (P12, Pts27); 2 Berwick (12-22); 3 Stirling (12-20). **Third Division:** Albion 3 Ross County 4; Alloa 0 Livingston 2; Brechin 2 Cowdenbeath 0; Caledonian Thistle 5 Arbroath 1; East Stirling 1 Queen's Park 2. **Leading positions:** 1 Livingston (P12-Pts29); 2 Ross County (12-22); 3 Caledonian T (12-21).

Scottish League Challenge Cup Final

Dundee Utd 0 Stenhousemuir 0
7,850
(at McDiarmid Park, Perth; Stenhousemuir win 5-4 on pens after extra time)

DUTCH LEAGUE: Willem II Tilburg 5 Groningen 2; Fortuna Sittard 1 Twente Enschede 1; NEC Nijmegen 1 Roda JC Kerkrade 4; Go Ahead Eagles Deventer 1 Volendam 2. **Yesterday:** Ajax 1 (Kanu 35) PSV Eindhoven 1 (Ronaldo 32); Sparta Rotterdam 3 (Fortes 36, De Nooijer 66, Renfurm 79) Feyenoord 2 (Koeman 32, pen 41); NAC Breda 2 (Van Wonderen pen 44, Oostrom 87) Vitesse Arnhem 2 (Makaay 19, Latuheru 40); Utrecht 1 (Visser 25) Heerenveen 1 (Echtold 13). **Leading positions:** 1 Ajax (P13, Pts37); 2 PSV Eindhoven (13-32); 3 Willem II Tilburg (13-23).

SPANISH LEAGUE: Real Madrid 3 (Raul 39, M Laudrup 52, Michel pen 85) Real Sociedad 2 (De Pedro 75, Kiriakov 83); Valencia 5 (Mijatovic 6, 27 pen, Viola 54, Galvez 64, Passi og 81) Compostela 2 (Ramon 10, Christensen 62); Barcelona 4 (Popescu 12, pen 30, Kodro 23, Oscar Garcia 49) Salamanca 1 (Stinga 86); Real Betis 3 (Alfonso 5, Alexis 11, pen 67) Tenerife (Pizzi 35, pen 74, Aguilera 48); Oviedo 1 (Dubovsky 65) Albacete 0; Rayo Vallecano 1 (Andrijasevic 47) Racing Santander 2 (Alberto 29, Popov 61); Real Zaragoza 0 Atletico Madrid 1 (Simeone 64); Merida 1 (Prieto 42) Sporting Gijon 0; Real Valladolid 3 (Quevedo 7, Peternac 21, 50) Sevilla 3 (Moya 29, 72, Juanito 38); Athletic Bilbao 3 (Alejo og 26, Andrinua 28, Garcia 55) Celta 0.

RUGBY LEAGUE RESULTS

Stones Centenary Championship

Castleford (4) 8, **London Broncos** (19) 37. **Castleford:** Tries Coventry, Middleton. **London Broncos:** Tries Dynevor 3, Green, Matterson, McKenna, Riley. Goals Matterson 3, Dynevor. Drop goal Walker. (4,099)

Sheffield (12) 36, **Oldham** (18) 18. **Sheffield:** Tries Hay 2, Lawless 2, J Hughes, Senior. Goals Aston 6. **Oldham:** Tries Abram, Green, Hill. Goals Gartland 3. (3,000)

St Helens (10) 58, **Halifax** (16) 20. **St Helens:** Tries A Sullivan 4, Hammond 2, K Cunningham, C Joynt, V Matautia, Pickavance. Goals: Goulding 9. **Halifax:** Tries Gillespie, Tuilagi, Umaga. Goals J Schuster 4. (7,882)

Workington (8) 12, **Bradford** (10) 22. **Workington:** Tries Campbell, Johnson. Goals Marwood 2. **Bradford:** Tries Christie, Ellis, Newlove, Powell. Goals Fox 3. (2,852)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	10	9	0	1	423	142	18
Leeds	10	8	0	2	348	178	16
St Helens	10	7	0	3	430	258	14
Halifax	10	7	0	3	238	239	14
London Brncs	11	5	0	6	283	293	10
Bradford	10	5	0	5	220	248	10
Castleford	10	5	0	5	204	268	10
Warrington	10	4	0	6	230	224	8
Sheffield	10	2	0	8	196	380	4
Oldham	11	2	0	9	183	364	4
Workington	10	2	0	8	169	350	4

First Division

Dewsbury (0) 8, **Salford** (8) 28. **Dewsbury:** Tries Pratt, Race. **Salford:** Tries Blakeley 2, Eccles; Goals Blakeley 3, Hampson; Drop goals: Hampson 3. (1,641)

Huddersfield (33) 57, **Batley** (8) 8. **Huddersfield:** Tries Austin 2, Hanger 2, B Barton, Kenny, Pearce, Richards, I St Hilaire; Goals Pearce 10; Drop goal Kenny. **Batley:** Tries Middleton, Wilson. (2,395)

Hull (14) 36, **Whitehaven** (12) 18. **Hull:** Tries Fisher 3, Gay, Manning, Vaikona; Goals McNamara 6. **Whitehaven:** Tries Fisher, Seeds, Smith; Goals Anderson 3. (2,540)

Keighley (22) 32, **Featherstone** (0) 0. **Keighley:** Tries Dixon, Eyres, Irving, Stoop; Goals Irving 5, Dixon 2; Drop goals Robinson. (4,172)

Rochdale (6) 14, **Widnes** (12) 34. **Rochdale:** Tries Alvarez, Diggle, Flanagan; Goals Alvarez. **Widnes:** Tries Gartland 2, Thornley 2, Cooper, Tyrer; Goals Tyrer 5. (1,425)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Keighley	10	9	1	0	329	107	19
Salford	10	9	0	1	344	157	18
Widnes	10	8	1	1	281	180	17
Hull	10	6	0	4	325	188	12
Rochdale	10	4	1	5	183	256	9
Featherstone	10	4	0	6	173	238	8
Whitehaven	10	3	1	6	172	233	7
Huddersfield	10	3	0	7	249	265	6
Batley	10	3	0	7	160	274	6
Wakefield	10	3	0	7	170	292	6
Dewsbury	10	1	0	9	133	329	2

Second Division

Barrow (15) 21, **Doncaster** (6) 22. **Barrow:** Tries Spencely 2, Everett, Kerr; Goals Shaw 2; Drop goal Shaw. **Doncaster:** Tries Chappell 2, Goldbourne, Roache; Goals Chappell 3. (705)

Carlisle (20) 34, **Swinton** (10) 16. **Carlisle:** Tries Thurlow 2, Lynch, Manning, Rhodes, Ruddy, Russell; Goals Richardson 3. **Swinton:** Tries Ashcroft, Cannon, Holliday; Goals: Birkett 2. (550)

Chorley (9) 9, **Hull KR** (18) 48. **Chorley:** Tries Dentawe, Holder; Drop goal Ruane. **Hull KR:** Tries Plange 3, G Brown 2, Eastwood 2, Crane; Goals M Fletcher 8. (1,050)

Highfield (12) 12, **Hunslet** (10) 28. **Highfield:** Tries Bridge, Brown; Goals Fanning 2. **Hunslet:** Tries Richardson 3, Baker, Lambert, Vuler; Goals Close, Pell. (341)

Leigh (8) 14, **Bramley** (8) 20. **Leigh:** Tries Cheetham 2, O'Loughlin; Goal Wilkinson. **Bramley:** Tries Pickles 2, Blankley; Goals Pickles 4. (1,535)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hull KR	9	7	0	2	287	140	14
Carlisle	10	7	0	3	280	147	14
Leigh	9	7	0	2	256	144	14
Swinton	9	6	0	3	283	131	12
York	9	5	0	4	215	167	10
Bramley	9	4	0	5	220	202	8
Hunslet	8	4	0	4	147	156	8
Barrow	9	3	0	6	199	196	6
Doncaster	9	3	0	6	168	298	6
Chorley	8	3	0	5	121	264	6
Highfield	9	0	0	9	94	435	0

SPORT

'While there have been better heavyweight contests, few have done more to advance the sport's traditional nobility. This was especially true of the grace Holyfield showed in defeat'
KEN JONES salutes Riddick Bowe's hard-fought victory in Las Vegas Page 24

England's bowlers strike into a rich seam

Cricket
JAMES ALEXANDER
reports from East London
England 351
Border 166 & 132
England win by an innings and 53 runs

England completed a thoroughly professional innings victory here yesterday as many of the concerns and the cobwebs over the bowlers' inactivity were blown away. Dominic Cork, Darren Gough and Mark Ilott swung the ball, bowled in the right areas and exerted a pressure which the Border batsmen found intolerable. The opposition was fairly inept but, as Raymond Illingworth said, you can do oo more than beat the teams put in front of you.

Much is expected of Cork this winter after his remarkable entry to the international stage. The qualities that brought him such success against West Indies were again in evidence in his first first-class bowl of the tour – aggression, outswing and a good degree of guile – and he took eight wickets in the match. Cork is trying his best to remain unfazed by his new-found celebrity and stick to the fundamentals that helped him in the first place. Gough could tell him a few things about the dangers of stardom and the young Yorkshireman is desperate to re-establish himself as a Test bowler following his stress fracture. So Gough's contribution here was equally encouraging. He did not generate top pace but, as in the nets, all discomfort from his injured foot has gone.

Cork and Gough captured the final four wickets from Border's first innings in just 10 balls and England did not hesitate to enforce the follow-on. They would have been keen for Robin Smith to have another innings, but that was far outweighed by the bowlers' need for practice in the middle and the pursuit of victory. Winning is habit-forming and breeds confidence.

Illingworth said: "This wicket had gone to sleep, so we did well to bowl them out twice after losing four sessions to the weather. I'd like us to have played on surfaces quicker and bouncier, because that is what we are likely to get in the first Test. Generally, however, I'm very pleased with the way things are going."

There was an indication of this squad's appetite for hard work immediately after victory was completed, when several players went out to the middle and practised for an hour.

It might be no coincidence that the four players who came to South Africa on England's A tour two years ago – Ilott, Cork, Gough and Crawley – all made telling contributions here. Ilott, the leading wicket-taker on that trip, was the best of the bowlers in the second innings. He employed the classic weapons of the left-armer – inswing and slant across the right-handed batsman – to great effect. The tumbling legside catch by Jack Russell to dismiss Peter Kirsten was quite brilliant. Otherwise, the bowlers needed assistance from fielders only twice more in the second innings – a sure indication of the low bounce.

England remain unbeaten almost three weeks into this tour. It is not often England go so long without losing a cricket match. Indeed, if it had not rained in Soweto, they would surely have won every game. What a contrast from Australia last winter. South Africa will announce their team for the first Test today, with the main interest concerning the possible selection of the 20-year-old Western Province batsman Jacques Kallis.

(Final day of four; England won toss)
ENGLAND – First innings 351 (J P Crawley 108, M R Ramprakash 70, R C Russell 64; B C Fourie 4-75).

BORDER – First innings
(Overnight: 153 for 6)

D J Cullinan lbw b Cork	20
I L Howell c Russell b Gough	11
B C Fourie not out	0
P A N Emslie lbw b Gough	0
M Ntini b Cork	1
Extras (b8 lb6 w1 nb9)	24
Total (58.3 overs)	166

Fall: 1-8 2-81 3-90 4-111 5-141 6-144 7-164 8-164 9-164.
Bowling: Ilott 14-4-34-1; Cork 16.3-2-48-5; Gough 12-4-30-3; Martin 7-2-23-0; Illingworth 9-4-17-0.

Second innings

F J C Cronje lbw b Ilott	13
P J Botha c Smith b Cork	21
*P N Kirsten c Russell b Ilott	6
D J Cullinan b Gough	55
P C Strydom lbw b Cork	3
†S J Palframan b Cork	10
S G Pope b Ilott	8
I L Howell not out	5
B C Fourie c Russell b Ilott	0
P A N Emslie lbw b Gough	0
M Ntini lbw b Ilott	0
Extras (lb10 nb1)	11
Total (51.5 overs)	132

Fall: 1-18 2-34 3-55 4-63 5-92 6-127 7-127 8-128 9-129.
Bowling: Ilott 13.5-3-36-5; Martin 5-2-11-0; Gough 9-3-9-2; Cork 12-0-33-3; Illingworth 12-1-33-0.

Giddins applies brakes, page 24

Davies denied chance to shine

Steve Bale reports on a much heralded return to the union ranks of a former international in Cardiff's 57-9 victory

If Jonathan Davies is to he the saviour of Welsh rugby – and in this eodeavour he had hetter carry oo pleading for patience – he will need the ball, aod by design Cardiff appeared to be doing their best to deprive him of it in last night's Arms Park bonanza against Aberavon.

It would be remiss not to wonder just how warm the greeting was among his fellow-players for a 33-year-old who until Tuesday was still a contracted rugby league professional. While the crowd, at least 7,000 fewer than the 14,200 Cardiff had suggested, grew desperate for his involvement, the players declined to oblige.

Mike Rayer and Chris John, Cardiff's existing full-backs, had already made clear their displeasure at the haste with which Davies had heen elevated straight into their position, though John was sent away with a flea in his ear by Alex Evans, the Cardiff coach, when he hroached the subject at training.

Perhaps they had a point. As the opposition was humble Aberavon – languishing in the nether reaches of the Heineken League First Division, which Cardiff again lead after accruing a full set of five points from a 57-9 victory – you could reasonably argue that Cardiff scarcely needed to give their new recruit quite such a hurry-up.

In fact, listening to Davies himself at his introductory parade on Thursday he seemed as reluctant as Rayer and John. But Gareth Davies, the club's chief executive, admits there are commercial imperatives, especially at a club supposedly £1m in debt, so straight in his namesake had to go. No wonder Gareth was so disappointed at the attendance, though live television coverage on Bonfire Night was a reasonable excuse.

Jonathan had instant personal confirmation of his view that rugby union is less physically demanding than rugby league in this match, as well as confirmation that as full-back or even outside centre, where he moved after Steve Ford's injury, there will be far less to do than there was in rugby league.

"It was a strange experience," he said after a pregnant pause which suggested strange meant unsatisfactory if not downright boring. "I did enjoy it to a degree but I would hope I can contribute a lot more. There seem to be a lot of players spoiling the game rather than being constructive."

He sliced a kick with his first touch after 100 seconds and sent a wild pass away from Nigel Walker the next time he had the ball, 15 minutes later. Altogether, he had the ball eight times in the first half, kicking once, running twice, passing three times and catching one high ball.

No problem there, even if tackles – one missed, one made – were more of a hazard. Adrian Davies, the outside-half, denies he feels under any more pressure than anyone else but he studiously avoided passing the hall to Jonathan until late in the game, even with the 7,000 baying at him and his comrades to do so.

Not the least of the ironies was that, with Jonathan more or less frozen out, it was Rayer who should have received the loudest cheer of the night when he replaced Ford. Rayer took over at full-back but at least Davies was spared a move to the wing by the obliging Mike Hall and Rayer had cause for gratitude when Davies's passing put him away for the fifth and sixth of Cardiff's nine tries. Davies had only five second-half touches and not a single tackle.

"The difference in league is if you want to get involved you shout for the ball and you get it," Jonathan said. "But I can't come in and say what should and shouldn't be done. It would be insulting of me to do that. But once I have played a few games and settled in, then I can comment." If it carries on like this, one imagines the comment will not he complimentary.

Cardiff: Tries Ring 3, Rayer 2, Ford, Williams, A Davies, A Booth; Conversions A Davies 6. **Aberavon:** Penalties D Davies 3.

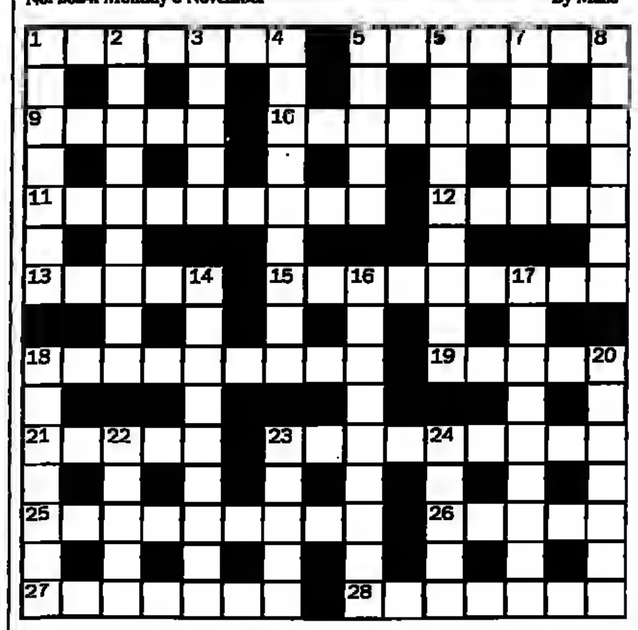
Cardiff: J Davies; S Ford (M Rayer, 42), M... M Ring (M de Maid, 75), N Walker; A Davies... A Booth; A Lewis (P Booth, 73), H Bevan, ... fiths, J Wakeford, K Stewart, V Davies (C... 58), E Lewis, D Williams.
Aberavon: D Davies; B Grabham, A Bucknell, ... Wintle, S Hutchinson; C Laity, G Baber; R Price, ... Bernard, A Bevan, P Clapham, S Thomas, B... ton (capt), P Jones, H Merrett (A Miers, h-t).
Referee: P O'Brien (Oamaru, NZ).

More rugby, page ...

Hands-on experience: Jonathan Davies, in Cardiff's colours for the first time yesterday, breaks for the Aberavon line Photograph: Peter Jay

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 2824. Monday 6 November By Mass



ACROSS
1 Goes off with Jack, the group leader? (3,4)
5 Liberal hursting into print (7)
9 The butcher's livery! (5)
10 Fat short body needs a spell of fasting (9)
11 It's hard to provoke relative fans (7-2)
12 Conservative/Labour split (5)
13 Wrecks? Scores around Italy (5)
15 What's shown by idle one, maybe, around N. Carolina? (9)
18 Course available for driving lessons? (4,5)
19 City has nothing for ladies' man (5)
21 It's a burning issue (5)
23 Practice? Try again, Sarah (9)
25 One for the road, perhaps? (9)
26 Large case for stock (5)
27 Day, one out with unpleasant family (7)
28 City man left on rank (7)

DOWN
1 Pain in most of left side gets illicit angler? (7)
2 Cootinuing with plan Irene devised (9)
3 Container almost ruby in colour? (5)
4 Economic slump? Holiday home has nobody in (9)
5 A joint for Frankenstein, say (5)
6 Like a pawnbroker, it could be said? (9)
7 Vassal has say in press (5)
8 Give right name (7)
14 Fractures sustained by athletes – left, not right (9)
16 Girl's fee satisfies cashier (9)
17 Ass for miners left to carry awkward bulks (9)
18 Joined Labour with Ted? (7)
20 Paints family in rainwear (7)
22 Yield, with hand squeezed by bridge partners (5)
23 Note oo song that's broadcast (5)
24 A character I must follow (5)

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Stuart's strike too much for wretched Rovers

GUY HODGSON

Everton	1
Blackburn Rovers	0

Anyone looking for a panacea for the problems of English football could safely ignore Goodison Park yesterday. Two teams who had flopped against Continental opposition in midweek gave an indication why in a game that rarely rose above the humdrum.

Mistakes, errors, blunders. Anyway, you would like to describe them, they were there in abundance. The fact that this was provided by the teams who were being acclaimed as champions and FA Cup winners only last May merely compounded the sense of decline.

Everton will be the happier, Graham Stuart's goal securing their first win since 30 August, although there was little to suggest that this will herald a glorious winter. As for Blackburn, they had only one shot on target and that was a lame effort from Lars Bohinen that troubled Neville Southall only in that he had to bend over to pick it up.

In the corresponding fixture last year, Blackburn had been a goal ahead after 14 seconds and two up after six minutes but, notwithstanding a late rally yesterday, the impression they created was that they could have gone on another six hours and still not scored.

"We're disappointed," Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, said. "We were very poor in the first half and although things got better in the second we still didn't create any real chances."

The first half was largely an entertainment-free zone until Anders Limpar launched an exquisite 50-yard ball from the left flank to the right after 22 minutes that allowed the game's best player, Andrei Kanchelskis, a run at Jeff Kenna. The winger cut inside and although Kenna managed to get a foot to the hall, it bounced to Stuart who shot into the far corner.

Buoyed by this, Everton had by far their best spell of the game and by half-time might have added a further three goals. Stuart had two shots spectacularly saved by Tim Flowers while Colin Hendry had to clear off the line in the 39th minute when Matt Jackson profited from a scramble in the area.

Blackburn improved after half-time, yet for all their bluster it was Everton who created the hetter opportunities. Flowers saved from Gary Ablett, and six minutes from time Limpar cut inside after Daniel Amokachi had tackled Hendry and dispossessed Kenna, clipping the bar with a fierce drive.

"Neville Southall had his easiest game of the season," Joe Royle, the Everton manager, said. "I'm as happy as a dog with two tails with the three points." After securing just two of the previous 27, he had every right to be. The prohlem is, people expect more of Everton.

Everton (4-4-2): Southall; Jackson, Watson, Short, Ablett; Kanchelskis, Ebbrell, Parkinson, Limpar; Stuart (Amokachi, 71), Rideout. **Substitutes not used:** Unsworth, Grant.
Blackburn Rovers (4-4-2): Flowers; Berg, Pearce (Le Saux, 63), Hendry, Kenna; Ripley, Sherwood, Batty, Bohinen; Newell (Sutton, 82), Shearer. **Substitute not used:** Mimms (gk).
Referee: A Wilkie (Chester-le-Street).

More football, pages 26 and 27

Juninho likely to miss six weeks of season

The weekend euphoria on Teesside which followed Juninho's encouraging debut, was dampened a little yesterday with the news that Middlesbrough will almost certainly be without their hrilliant Brazilian for six weeks early oext year.

Brazil are insisting oo his release for the Under-23 squad which will play in the Olympic qualifying tournament being held in neighbouring Argentina next February and March.

Asked if Juninho would be included, Carlos Alberto Nuzman, the president of Brazil's Olympic Committee, said: "Without douht. Brazil will field a very strong team and will call up all their eligible players."

The competition will run for four weeks but Brazil also require Middlesbrough's £4.75m signing to be available for two weeks preparation. It means he could miss about eight games when Middlesbrough may be chasing a place in Europe. Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, said: "We will tackle the problem over Juninho nearer the time."

Brazil have already claimed Juninho on Wednesday for a frieodly in Argentina, which means he will miss the Coca-Cola Cup replay with Crystal Palace the same night.

Juninho lifts spirits, page 27

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